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* Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" I raise another point. We have been told to send our cuts by a certain date, and we cannot send any other cuts now."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The President has got the right to admit any motion."

* Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" Will you do it ? That is what I want to know."

III

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS AND FINANCE COMMITTEES.

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" I have to announce that as a result of the elections held yesterday, the following hon. Members have been declared duly elected to the Public Accounts Committee and the Finance Committee

(1) the Public Accounts Committee : Mr. P. J. Gnanavaram Pillai, Rao Bahadur S. Ellappa Chettiyar, Mr. F. E. James, Zamindar of Singampatti, Mr. A. Parasurama Rao, Mr. K. Uppi Sahib and Mr. P. C. Venkatapati Raju, and

(2) the Finance Committee : Dr. B. S. Mallayya, Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan, Mr. P. Bhaktavatsulu Nayudu, Khan Bahadur S. K. Abdul Razack Sahib Bahadur, Mr. H. F. P. Hearson and Mr. S. Arpudaswami Udayar."

IV

MOTIONS ON THE BUDGET FOR 1929-30.

DEMAND VII—CAUVERY-METTUR PROJECT.

The House then resumed discussion of the motion of Mr. Venkataramana Ayyangar on the Mettur project.

* Mr. S. ARPUDASWAMI UDAYAR :—" Sir, I was speaking about the poor yield. Some critics have pointed out—and among them officers of the Agricultural department—that this is due to the deterioration of the soil. I think this deterioration is not a quality inherent in the soil of Tanjore, but it is largely due to the fact that we have no regular silt deposits as of yore and, secondly, want of green manure in sufficient quantities and precarious supply of water. I have already spoken of the system of morai which was objected to by both Mr. Wickkam and Mr. Morin, but which has been, and will continue to be, the practice for the reason that, as the Cauvery Committee pointed out, the supply throughout the irrigation season is extremely unsteady, that the average irrigation supply varies incessantly to an extent which is unknown on large canal systems elsewhere in India and without a storage reservoir of great capacity, the floods in the river could not be stored. These are the defects which the Cauvery-Mettur project seeks to remedy. This project has long been overdue. Even now, many are sceptical about the supply being adequate not only for first and second crops throughout the deltaic portion but also for over 150,000 acres to be brought under cultivation. 11-45 a.m.

" My Friend Mr. Venkataramana Ayyangar rightly stressed the need for economy, especially in connexion with works, the estimates whereof have a tendency to mount upwards every time there is a fresh revision. My point is that true economy would lie in expediting the completion of the

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work. The construction of the sluices and other works are rapidly nearing completion in the Tanjore district. The machines for excavating the channel which the members of the committee inspected in some village in Tiruvarambur have moved down seven or eight miles; they are now in Sholagampatti and before the next rainy weather they may go very near Budalur. I think that works in the Tanjore district will be completed long before the completion of the dam. My friend is much nearer the head works than any other Member of this Council, and knowing as I do his practical sagacity and business capacity, he will be very helpful to the Council by favouring it with helpful criticism as regards the speedy completion of the headworks.

" My friend also made some reference to the statements in the press with regard to the payment of the rates by the Tanjore mirasidars. I think members representing this district know better. Mr. Rajappa, the Junior zamindar of Papanad, heartily supported the rates when he was in the Council, and my Friend the Excise Minister who owns lands under the lower reaches of the Cauvery and can well represent the opinion of the landholders and Zamindars of Shiyali and Mayavaram taluks, was eager, if for anything, to have all the water for the Tanjore district. I think my hon. Friend Mr. Marudavanam Pillai and Mr. Sivasubrahmanya Ayyar who are big mirasdars holding lands in the Needamangalam and Nannilam taluks, have no objection to pay these rates. Compared with them, I am a very small mirasdar and own some lands in the God-forsaken portions of the Tanjore district, I am referring to portions of Tanjore taluk and Pattukkottai division. People in these parts will never object to the payment of the rates. They are very hard working, and what they want is that their hard labour throughout the year should be rewarded.

" There is also a village called Ponvilainthanpatti. It was sung by some poet that it is a gold producing land, referring evidently to the good harvests of gold corn reaped by some virtuous soul. I am sure that if this project materializes and water is given, people will have very rich harvests every year and all the villages will become Ponvilainthanpattis.

" My Friend Mr. Sahajanandam requested the Government to extend the Oyyakondan channel to Valavandankottai and beyond through Manirpatti, Kotrapatti, Nandavanapatti and Sangipatti. In some of the villages, he said, owing to scanty rainfall and scarcity of water, an acre is sold for even 1 Re. I may tell the hon. Members of this House that the average price of dry land in those villages never exceeds Rs. 2 per acre. But I am told that the order for investigation passed by the hon. the Irrigation Member has raised high expectations in the poor agriculturists there, with the result that the price of land is rapidly rising in those parts. There is also another and more immediate use for water in these parts, the extermination of the loathsome guineaworm disease.

" Coming to Trichinopoly which I also have the privilege to represent, of the remaining two investigations, there is one which is closely connected with the Mettur Project, namely the scheme for taking off a channel above Kattalai for the irrigation of the Kadarambam parts of Trichinopoly district."

(There was a conversation going on between the hon. Mr. S. Muthiah Mudaliyar and some members on the Opposition bench, on which the hon. the President remarked as follows.)

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* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"If the Treasury Bench wants to hold conversations with the Members of the Opposition benches, I think I shall have to make arrangements for shifting their seats below the gangway and rearrange the seats of those members that are interested to hear the debates going on in this House."

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—"I am very sorry."

* Mr. S. ARPUDASWAMI UDAYAR :—"I was speaking of the project for the irrigation of the kadarambam parts. During the last three or four years, very many mirasidars have displayed marvellous activity and many deputations have waited on His Excellency the Governor and on the hon. the Irrigation Member for the successful realization of this scheme. In this connexion I remember an interesting episode. I was awakened one morning, and that was what happened to other members of the Council representing Trichinopoly, by some of these mirasidars saying that the hon. the Finance Member had come to Pettavathalai and that we should wait on him and press the demands of the kadrambam parts. We followed him. After 1 o'clock one or two of us returned having other work to do, but the others remained enduring the fast which the hon. the Finance Member unconsciously and unknowingly inflicted on them for the sake of having the interview. (Mr. Satyamurti : 'Result ?') The result was that they returned at 5 o'clock to a cold breakfast, if even a cold breakfast was available at that hour. (Laughter.) Some of my friends are sceptical of the results of this project. My conviction is that they do not make a distinction between Government and Government. They erroneously think that the investigation is a mere eye wash. They forget, because they have not the experience which we have, that dealing with Government in the abstract is one thing and that dealing with Government as represented by the Irrigation Member is a totally different thing.

"My Friend Mr. Venkataramana Ayyangar paid a graceful tribute once or twice to the great interest evinced by the hon. the Irrigation Member in irrigation projects. My Friend Mr. Saldanha who carries a hidden battery which explodes into activity, sometimes terrific, but always harmless, even he said, that the hon. the Irrigation Member is a gentleman of action and not a mere man of words, one who takes interest in all questions referred to him, and sets them right. It is unnecessary for me to multiply instances. Anyhow, members belonging to different political schools and to different shades of opinion agree in paying this homage to him (A voice : 'No.'), namely, that they may repose confidence in the sincerity and sympathy of the hon. the Irrigation Member and his Irrigation Secretary. Need I give further proof ? Am I not right when I say that it was through his endeavour that the Arbitration Board has been set up for the purpose of shaking off the fetters that hamper the free consideration of the different projects and making them fruitful ? Am I not justified in paying this tribute to the hon. the Irrigation Member that the sincerity and sympathy of which he has given evidence are a pledge and earnest that these investigations will be pushed through to a successful issue by that time ? We strongly hope that all these investigations will be completed within six months and, if the decisions and conclusions of the Arbitration Board are available, justice will be done to the ryots not only in Tanjore but also in Trichinopoly, Coimbatore and Salem, on a scale and in a manner undreamt of by any and that they will all have reason to rejoice and to be thankful to the hon.

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the Irrigation Member and to hand down his name to posterity as that of a great benefactor."

* Mr. S. SUBRAHMANYA MOOPANAR spoke in Tamil as follows :—

"சென்னை சட்டசபை பிரஸிடெண்டு அவர்களுக்கு வெகு கோடான கோடி நமஸ்காரம். என்னுடைய ஊர் திருச்சினாப்பள்ளி, ஷை. திருச்சினாப்பள்ளியில் ஓர் உய்யக்கொண்டான் யென்ற ஒரு கால்வாய் வருகின்றது. அக்கால்வாயில் ஜலம் சரியானபடி சப்பிளை செய்யாததினால் திருச்சினாப்பள்ளி தாலூக்காவில் அனேக நிலங்கள் தரிசுக்கிடையாய் கிடந்துவிடுகிறது. ரெவினியூ கிஸ்த்தியை கையிலிருந்து கொடுத்துவருகிறார்கள். அடியேன்கூட நாலாவது வாய்தாவுக்கு பணமில்லாமல் நாட்டுக்கொட்டை செட்டிமார்களிடம் கடன் வாங்கி நாலாவது வாய்தாவுக்குக் கொடுத்துவிட்டு பிறகு இவ்விடம் வந்தேன்.

"2-வது.—ஷை திருச்சியில், திருவரம்பூர், நவல்பட்டு, கூத்தப்பால் இன்னும் அனேக ஊர்களில் கள்ளர்கள் வசித்துவருகிறார்கள். அவர்களில் சிலர் திருடுவதற்கு காரணம் யேதென்றால், உய்யக்கொண்டானில் சரியானபடி ஜலம் சப்பிளை இல்லாததினால் அனேக நிலம் தரிசியாய் கிடந்துவிடுகிறது. ஷை உய்யக்கொண்டான் ஆற்றில் சரியானபடி ஜலம் சப்பிளை செய்யாததினால் ஷை கள்ளர்கள் திருட எத்தனிக்கிறார்கள்.

"ஜலம் சரியானபடி சப்பிளை செய்யும் பக்ஷத்தில் அவர்கள் திருடமாட்டார்கள். சாகுபடி செய்ய டைம்போராது. பிறகு திருட பிரயத்தனஞ்செய்யமாட்டார்கள். ஆகையினாலே நமது ஸ்ரீமான் ரெவினியூ மெம்பர் இது விஷயத்தை கவனித்து கூடியசீக்கிரம் உய்யக்கொண்டான் பாய்ச்சலுக்கு தரிசு இல்லாமல் செய்வாரேயாகில் அவருடைய குடும்பம் நீடூழிகாலம் வாழ்வதோடுங்கூட நோயற்றவாழ்வாயும் குறைவற்ற செல்வத்துடனும் இருக்கவேணுமென்று கடவுளிடத்தில் ரொம்பவும் பிரார்த்திப்போம்."

12 noon. * Mr. T. M. NARAYANASWAMI PILLAI :—"When yesterday I heard my hon. Friend Mr. Arpudaswami Udayar, I thought he was giving up the case of Trichinopoly. But I am now glad to learn that what he said yesterday was only by way of rhetoric in order to draw the attention of the Government to the serious irregularities in the Tanjore district.

"With regard to the claims of Trichinopoly, he himself said that the people of Tanjore, Coimbatore and Salem, are all agreed that a portion ought to be given to Trichinopoly. I think the sympathetic and considerate Revenue Member realizes the justice of our claims. As a matter of fact, he has recognized this in the general discussion on the Budget. At the same time there was a cry from Mr. Venkataramana Ayyangar, that he was never going to give us any water. I think the sympathetic Revenue Member will treat our case in such a manner as to belie Mr. Venkataramana Ayyangar's words.

"The Committee to which Mr. Venkataramana Ayyangar referred decided that we should have 50,000 acres. The Chief Engineer and other responsible people have gone into this question and have said that there is no difficulty from the engineering point of view. They have also said that it will not be an area which will be unproductive.

"Sir, having these favourable circumstances, I think in this case the sympathy will be translated into action and I hope that the hon. the Revenue

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Member, before he lays down his office, will see to the fruition of this canal which is so dear to us all. I do not want to repeat the arguments already advanced in favour of it. As I said, the justice and the necessity of our case have been recognized by the Government. I do not wish to say anything more than to point out that here is an opportunity and if we let it slip or if the Government do not give us permission to avail ourselves of this opportunity, I am afraid, there will be no other opportunity for us. There fore, I request the Government to do all in their power to see that this scheme by which we would be able to get 50,000 acres materializes soon."

* Mr. K. S. SIVASUBRAHMANYA AYYAR :—" Mr. President, Sir, I support the cut motion of my hon. Friend Mr. Venkataramana Ayyangar, so far as it relates to the fact that Indian labour should be employed in carrying out this project and that Indian officers should be appointed as far as practicable and that swadeshi articles should be used and encouraged.

" Besides that, Sir, my hon. Friend from Trichinopoly—Tanjore, Mr. Arpudaswami Udayar, has very rightly depicted the picture that we, the Tanjore ryots this year, have been subjected to, from severe draught which was caused by the scarcity of water during the last September and October, which on the whole had reduced our yield by 50 per cent. A few years ago we had a heavy flood which caused havoc in our district Tanjore. It is for the sake of avoiding such a contingency and with a view to effect the kalla reclamation, I think, the Government after mature consideration for several years, that is after spending much thought and time over the matter, have come to the conclusion of bringing into existence the Mettur Project.

" Now, Sir, I find that hon. Members from Salem, Coimbatore and Trichinopoly, do not seem to be tired of pressing upon the Government the necessity for diverting the water for their districts. It is but natural that they as members representing those districts should do so. (Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar :—Hear, hear, But, Sir, as the district of Tanjore pays one-tenth of the land revenue to the coffers of Government, is it not right on the part of the Tanjore ryots to expect the Government to do the needful to protect their interests and to see that they do not suffer either on account of scarcity of water or on account of floods ? I think, it is but reasonable that the Government should adhere to the original plans and should keep in view the object with which the original scheme was started and also see that it is not deflected. I find Sir that hon. Members are always appealing to the other Members of this House to see that the water is deflected to their districts even if it be detrimental to the interests of Tanjore. In a lawyer-like way, my hon. Friends. Messrs. Venkataramana Ayyangar, Narayanaswami Pillai and Adinarayana Chettiyar present to this House things smoothly and in a clever manner. Sir, the hon. the Excise Minister while he was on this side of this House was able to hold his own perhaps in a lawyer-like manner. Now that he has left us and gone to the treasury bench, and his mouth has been gagged, I am afraid, Sir, our case will go by default. Anyhow even from there, I believe, Sir, he will not allow things to take a different course. (A voice : Will he be elected again ?) I cannot answer that question Sir, and that depends upon the voters.

" I agree with other hon. Members when they say that an irrigation law should be enacted by this House. But Sir, I am sorry I cannot agree with Mr. Venkataramana Ayyangar when he says that an Irrigation Law is of the utmost necessity to enforce Tanjore ryots to pay the amount fixed by the

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Government. Just in the same way as he promised that the people of Coimbatore and Salem will be ready to pay any rate that the Government might fix for the water they may supply, I wish to assure this House that the Tanjore people, who realize the labour and the cost involved in such a huge undertaking as this, will never hesitate to pay any reasonable rate. Even then if there is any necessity to reduce the rates, I think there are other sources by which money can be got and as and when the question arises, I think, that can be discussed. With these words, Sir, I support the cut motion."

* Mr. P. C. VENKATAPATHI RAJU :—" Mr. President, Sir, if I intervene at this stage of the debate it is not mainly to bring to the notice of this House the breach of faith that has been committed by this Government in regard to the Mettur Project both to this House and to the higher authorities. It was on the clear understanding that this Government is going to place on the Statute Book an Irrigation Law, the Secretary of State and the India Government were induced to give their sanction to the launching of this big scheme, and I have no doubt, the hon. the Revenue Member will bear me out in his usual candour and sincerity as to the promises that were made by this Government in that connexion. Not satisfied with committing a breach of faith with regard to the Secretary to State and the India Government they have committed a breach of faith in the same matter with regard to this House, by putting this big irrigation project which was promised to be a God-send to a greater part of this Presidency by the then member in charge. He made this House somehow or other carry on an Irrigation Law, and after once the Bill was passed by this House and after on the strength of this Bill the Government secured the consent of the India Government and the Secretary of State they have taken away the Irrigation Law from the hands of this House. Of course, I know it was not on the motion of the Government that this was done but it is evident on the face of it that this collusive motion was brought about by their partisans and they somehow or other got rid of the Irrigation Law, and you know, Mr President, that even as in launching the project they committed a breach of faith both to their superiors and this House so also in carrying out the project they have disregarded the constructive proposals submitted to the House for the consideration of the Government by many members who had made a special study of the thing and by other hon. Members who were interested in it. Even with regard to one simple suggestion made by the hon. Members to have a standing committee of the House just to watch the progress of this immense project wherein some crores of rupees are being, in the opinion of many hon. Members, wasted and wasted, the Government hesitate just to incur a small amount, just to take the Members of this House into its confidence by appointing a standing committee, and this is in my opinion grossly improper, especially when as in all irrigation matters the members of this House are giving all possible help and encouragement to proceed with the schemes ; and even there the very constructive proposals given out by the Members are disregarded. If such a thing as the appointment of a standing committee of the House (though not to the extent suggested by my friend Mr. Saldanha) to look after the project and to advise how the gross waste of the finances of this Province can be prevented, cannot be agreed upon by this Government I do not know what sort of help they will take from this House.

" As far as I can see from the various speeches on the motion the main objection to the present policy is that they are proceeding with the project

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without taking special care about the interest of the people concerned or without taking special care to utilize the finances in the most economic way possible. While this House is prepared to give all possible help I am unable to understand the objection on the part of the Government for appointing a small committee of the House. Of course, if they so want it, they can at the time of appointing the committee prevent extravagant and unreasonable demands (such as were made by the provincial committee of the Simon Seven) by specifically saying that the members will be given their allowance and travelling charges that are allowable as members of this House. If the Government is not agreeable even to such a simple thing as this then I think the House will be justified not only in supporting the cut motion but also in rejecting the whole demand for this project."

* Khan Bahadur P. KHALIF-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur :—" Mr. President, Sir, the hon. Member from Tanjore told the House that the Members from Trichinopoly, Salem and Coimbatore are not tired of pressing their demands on the attention of the House. I for one may tell him that we shall never be tired till justice is done to us. (Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar: Hear, hear). (Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed : Is your leader unjust to you ?) So far as Trichinopoly is concerned, justice, equity and good conscience alike demand that Government should come to its rescue forthwith. Very often I have pressed the claims of Trichinopoly because ours stand on the same footing as Salem and Coimbatore. We have been assured that under the Mettur project we are going to get a little benefit. But I understand that an effort is being made to help us only by a channel near Kulitalai and at the tail end of Uyyakondan. My hon. Friend from Tanjore told us that this move is against the interests of the ryots of Tanjore. I may assure him that our move is not certainly against the ryots of Tanjore. There are any number of ryots suffering from dearth of water in our channels as Mr. Muppanar put it. If only Government would come to our rescue and supply a little water from the large storage in the Mettur dam, they will be saving lakhs and lakhs of poor ryots from starvation which is staring them in the face and enabling these people who belong mainly to the depressed and other classes to maintain their honourable profession as their life's career. Government have often promised that justice shall be done to Trichinopoly and other districts. It is only to reiterate the demand on behalf of Trichinopoly and other districts that I rise to support the motion now under discussion." 12-15 p.m.

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN :—" Mr. President, Sir, if I intervene in this debate it is in order to give expression to the feeling of this House with regard to two matters connected with this project which has been undertaken by the Government.

" Sir, if the policy of the Government is to see to the welfare of the people in this country in undertaking this project, they ought not to prefer foreign materials to those that are available here. First of all, Sir, the Government have done a great injustice to Indian interests by ordering, even against the wishes of experts, the use of cement and not lime.

" My next point is about the importation of excavating machinery. Sir, it is regrettable that the Government, while there is plenty of manual labour available and waiting to be employed, should have imported machinery for excavation.

" Sir, the third thing to which I want to draw the attention of the Government is that when the Government undertakes such large schemes as this involving some crores of rupees they ought to be very careful to see that the money that is spent is not wasted. There is, I am afraid, a good deal of waste going on in this project. There is not only waste, but I may say, there is a good deal of corruption also. I do think, Sir, that it is better both for the people and for the Government that they go into this matter more carefully. I may suggest that a small non-official committee of experts like Mr. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar and one or two others may be appointed to go into this question to see whether the waste could not be avoided and retrenchment effected.

" Sir, in this matter, the policy of the Government seems to be to appoint European engineers even when Indians with the required technical knowledge and engineering skill are available. I hope that in these matters the Government will not do anything by which the people's money will be wasted."

* The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" Mr. President, Sir, I will briefly touch on the more important considerations which have been urged by hon. Members who have criticised the project.

" To give precedence to the Leader of the Opposition, he has charged this Government with breach of faith to the Secretary of State and to the Government of India. I may tell him with all respect that if this Government were guilty of any such thing, those authorities would not hesitate to assert themselves. The project is being conducted with the full knowledge and consent of those authorities.

" As regards the connexion between this project and the Irrigation Bill once introduced in this House, some statements have been made. I went through the late Irrigation Bill very carefully to see in what manner it had any connexion with the Mettur project, but I am sorry to say I found nothing in it which would have assisted this project if it had been passed into law. Of course, if in future any difficulty arises, the question will be whether we should legislate making due provision to safeguard all the interests concerned. But so far, we have not been able to foresee anything of this sort. (Mr. P. C. Venkatapathi Raju : Levying a higher rate of water-cess.) The question of water-rate to which my attention has just been drawn I am coming to later.

" I will deal next with the question of machinery. The question as to whether machinery should or should not be used to the extent it is now used was raised and was carefully gone into by the Government. The Government fully appreciated the argument that the utilization of the labour available in that particular locality would be of benefit to the local people. I am not sure whether it would have been fully appreciated by all classes, but still it would have no doubt given a certain amount of additional employment in the locality. The main consideration that induced the Government to go in for machinery was the factor of time. They thought that the more quickly the project was completed—and this could be done only through the use of machinery—the sooner the money spent on it would give a return and the burden on the tax-payer be eased. It is on this consideration that we used machinery and so far it has justified our decision. (Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar : They have not yet begun to work. How can it justify ?)

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Hon. Members are aware that there have been excavators digging these channels for some time now. The hon. Member refers to one set of machinery and generalizes on that. The excavating and other machines have been working for a very considerable time.

"As regards the materials for the construction of the dam, that again is a question on which the pros and cons were fully weighed. We took the best opinion available to us and we decided that, taking the opinions as a whole, it was favourable to the use of cement. It would enable the dam to be finished earlier also which meant an earlier return on the money spent.

"The next question in point of importance is Indianization: the employment of Indian officers. At the present moment there are in the engineering branch, six Indian officers and four Europeans (Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar: at the dam?) on the scheme. We cannot undertake to make any difference between one part of the work and another, because the channels are just as important as the work on the dam itself. Further, all the assistants are Indians, and they will be our chief engineers of the future in other large works. (Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar: All the peons are Indians.) I deprecate this sarcastic remark. It is not complimentary to our Indian officers. The assistant engineers, the sub-divisional officers and the overseers are all very competent people to whom we may well look forward for our chief engineers of the future. The jibe interjected by the hon. Member is unjustified and is scarcely worthy of the dignity of this House.

"I next come, Sir, to the subject of the distribution of the area to be supplied. On the occasion of the general debate, I stated clearly that the Government's view was that we should distribute the benefits of this scheme to as large an area as possible. To that end, we are investigating the cost of the engineering work involved in irrigating areas in other districts as well. We are also examining whether we could extend irrigation in other places by an improvement of the present supply and so not indenting on the Mettur water. But if it is necessary to indent on that water for those purposes, there will be no objection if the financial and engineering considerations render it practicable.

"The difficulty in these matters has been that, so far as the supply of water to Coimbatore, Salem and Trichinopoly and other places is concerned, their demands have been urged and discussed on the floor of this House without a proper investigation as to what is possible and what it would cost. Once we know these factors we would be in a much better position to decide the matter. As I said, the policy of the Government is to spread the advantages as widely as it is practicable to do so. The question of water-rates was raised in a very vehement manner by one of the hon. Members who spoke. He complained that nobody in Tanjore would pay at the rate of Rs. 15 for the supply of water to them and the water would go waste to the sea. If Tanjore ryots would not pay Rs. 15, I do not know what reason we have to believe that people at Coimbatore will pay at the rate of Rs. 30. However, I am glad that the hon. Member from Coimbatore has been so clear on the point because when the time comes I am sure he will be glad to give his own bond of indemnity to cover the loss if Government is unable to collect at this rate." 12-30 p.m.

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"I can say, absolutely certain."

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The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" I do not know whether it would be legally binding. (Laughter.)

" Sir, I do not think I have more points to refer to. These are the principal ones on which hon. Members commented."

The motion was put to vote and declared lost.

A poll was demanded and the House divided thus :—

Ayes.

1. Mr. T. M. Narayanaswami Pillai.
2. ,, S. Subrahmanya Moopanar.
3. ,, S. V. Vanavudaiya Goundar.
4. ,, U. Ramaswami Ayyar.
5. Khan Bahadur Khalif-ul-lah Sahib Bahadur.
6. Mr. P. C. Venkatapati Raju.
7. ,, R. Srinivasa Ayyangar.
8. ,, Sami Venkatachalam Chetti.
9. ,, S. Satyamurti.
10. ,, C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar.
11. ,, J. A. Saldanha.
12. ,, G. Harisarvottama Rao.
13. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed Sahib Bahadur.
14. Mr. C. S. Govindaraja Mudaliyar.
15. Abdul Hameed Khan Sahib Bahadur.
16. Mr. K. V. R. Swami.
17. ,, D. Narayana Raju.
18. ,, K. R. Karant.
19. ,, K. Madhavan Nayar.
20. Mr. P. Anjaneyulu.
21. ,, C. Obi Reddi.
22. ,, A. Parasurama Rao Pantulu.
23. ,, C. Ramasomayajulu.
24. ,, T. Adinarayana Chettiyar.
25. ,, P. Bhaktavatsulu Nayudu.
26. Sriman Biswanath Das Mahasayo.
27. Mr. A. Kaleswara Rao.
28. K. Uppi Sahib Bahadur.
29. Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliyar.
30. ,, C. Venkatarangam Nayudu.
31. Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar.
32. Mr. K. P. Raman Menon.
33. The Zamindar of Gollapalli.
34. Mr. R. Nagan Gowda.
35. ,, C. Gopala Menon.
36. ,, B. Ramachandra Reddi.
37. Rao Bahadur C. S. Ratnasabhapati Mudaliyar.

Noes.

1. The hon. Sir Norman Marjoribanks.
2. ,, Khan Bahadur Sir Muhammad Usman Sahib Bahadur.
3. ,, Mr. T. E. Moir.
4. ,, Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar.
5. ,, Dr. P. Subbarayan.
6. ,, Mr. M. R. Seturatnam Ayyar.
7. ,, Mr. S. Muthiah Mudaliyar.
8. Mr. Alladi Krishnaswami Ayyar.
9. ,, Hilton Brown.
10. ,, H. A. Watson.
11. ,, C. A. Souter.
12. ,, S. H. Slater.
13. ,, A. Mc G. C. Tampoe.
14. ,, C. W. E. Cotton.
15. ,, V. Ch. John.
16. ,, M. A. Manikkavelu Nayakar.
17. ,, Syed Tajudin Sahib.
18. ,, H. B. Ari Gowder.
19. ,, A. B. Shetty.
20. ,, J. A. Davis.
21. ,, R. Foulkes.
22. Mr. P. J. Gnanavaram Pillai.
23. ,, Muppil Nayar.
24. The Zamindar of Singampatti.
25. Mr. J. Kuppuswami.
26. ,, O. M. Narayanan Nambudripad.
27. ,, K. Krishnan.
28. ,, N. Siva Raj.
29. Rao Sahib L. C. Guruswami.
30. Mr. V. I. Muniswami Pillai.
31. ,, W. P. A. Soundara Pandia Nadar.
32. ,, S. Venkiah.
33. Rao Sahib R. Srinivasan.
34. Mr. C. E. Wood.
35. ,, F. E. James.
36. ,, S. N. Dorai Raja.
37. The Zamindar of Kallikota.
38. Mr. K. Ramachandra Padayachi.
39. Swami A. S. Sahajanandam.
40. Mr. V. Ramjee Rao.
41. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. Patro.
42. Mr. Abdul Razack Sahib.
43. ,, T. M. Moidoo Sahib.
44. ,, K. Sarabha Reddi.

Ayes 37. Noes 44.

The motion was lost.

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" As no other motions are being moved, as they are all covered by this motion, I now put the demand.

" The question is that ' Government be granted 107·64 lakhs under Demand VII—Cauvery-Mettur Project.

The Demand was put to vote and carried.

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DEMAND VIII—ELECTRICITY

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I move—

' *that Government be granted 7·25 lakhs under Demand VIII—Electricity.*' "

* Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" I beg to move the motion standing . . ."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The hon. Member may ask for the information he desires when the motion of Mr. Venkataramana Ayyangar is being moved."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" I only wanted to know the various places that are being surveyed or contemplated to be surveyed."

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" I beg to move the motion standing against my name :—

' *To reduce the allotment of Rs.* 3,90,000 *for Hydro-Electric Schemes by Rs.* 100.'

" Sir, I want to raise the whole question of Government policy in this matter. No doubt various communiqués have been issued by the Government at various times regarding the working of this scheme, and it is no doubt desirable that Government, after having had a bad experience of the difficulties of the Mettur project, should proceed as they are now doing in a very cautious way in this matter. But still I believe it is better to go on with this question a little more briskly though cautiously. The original idea was to have a single scheme so far as this particular Pykara scheme is concerned. But now Government want to divide it into three parts and to give effect only to the first portion of it, and I would be glad to know how far this first portion has progressed and whether in working this first portion of the scheme the Government are not having in view the second portion also. I think the hon. the Law Member made a slight mistake the other day—I hope he will correct himself to-day—by saying that the first portion of the scheme had to do with Coimbatore district also, and I am sure he will correct it to-day. We are very much interested in seeing that power is supplied to Coimbatore district and if possible to the neighbouring districts also as much as possible. So far as the financial aspect is concerned, there can be no doubt that if the people of Mysore can bring power for a long distance up to Mettur and supply power to this Government at a very cheap price for the construction of the dam this Government can also supply power at a much cheaper price to our districts which are not very distant from the place where the scheme is worked. It is a well-known fact that the Mysore Government are supplying power at 8 pies per unit or so. Certainly our Government can and will be able to supply power in Coimbatore for mills and for other purposes and also to coffee and tea estates and other plantations in the Nilgiris at a much cheaper cost than at present. In Coimbatore itself we have to pay 6 annas per unit now for both lights and fans, and in the case of industries we have to pay at 4 annas per unit, whereas I believe so far as industries in Madras are concerned they have to pay only one anna or so per unit. Therefore, if the Government are really earnest in doing anything at all to safeguard the interests of industries they must do something by combining at least the first two portions of these schemes, so that a higher quantity of power may be generated and a portion of it may be given to Coimbatore

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and the neighbouring districts. There are plenty of industrial concerns in Coimbatore and I am sure the hon. the Law Member will be able to give us some information as to the results of the investigations made by the Special Officer, Mr. Sundaracharlu, as to the quantity of power that will be consumed by the industrial concerns in Coimbatore and neighbouring districts. I am sure that the report of the Special Officer would have been very favourable for this project being given effect to as I have suggested here.

"One essential thing that I would like to know, even at this stage, from the Government, is as to whether they intend to employ Indian talent. I would like to know whether the Chief Engineer at present working in this department has been appointed under any terms, and, if so, what they are, and if he has been appointed—as I believe he has been—for a certain period, we will be glad to know whether that period has been clearly fixed or whether it is to be extended. I understand—I am sure the hon. the Law Member knows it—that there are some Indian experts, some people who have ample knowledge in this particular work.

12-45 p.m. "I know of some Indians, Sir, who have travelled to European countries and who have studied this question of hydro-electric schemes in Europe. I would like to know from the hon. the Law Member whether it is the idea of this Government to encourage Indian experts in this matter and if, for any reason whatever, the present number of such experts or the quality of their expert knowledge is not sufficient or is not likely to be sufficient, the Government are making any arrangements to train up apprentices and to send qualified men to other parts of the world—America, Switzerland or Italy—where big hydro-electric schemes are worked. So far as Indian talent is concerned, we know that in the neighbouring Presidency of Bombay some companies have been working most satisfactorily under the Tata Company. If the Tata Company and the various companies working under their supervision have been able to employ a very large number of Indian electrical experts, there is no reason why this Presidency should not do so. We need not go so far as Bombay. I had the fortune of visiting the Sivasamudram Works recently. Those works are being extended day after day and its extension has resulted in power being brought even to Mettur Works and I understand that negotiations are going on to supply electric power from Sivasamudram to Erode and Salem via Mettur. All the Indian experts who are in charge of the Sivasamudram Works were trained, I believe, in America. Most of them, practically all of them, who are in charge of these works and other connected works, are Indians who have been able to work the scheme very well financially. If this is possible in the Mysore State, there is no reason why we should not do so here. So far as this Presidency is concerned, it is full of possibilities, by way of forests and water power. If this Government can utilize this water power to a very large extent, they will create money for themselves. The Mysore State are making huge profits on account of the hydro-electric works at Sivasamudram. The Tata Hydro-Electric Power Company is able to declare 8 per cent dividend and 8 per cent on debentures also. If private companies can work such schemes so successfully, there is no reason why this Government should not do so. I am one of those who believe in the capacity of this Government to spend more money and to get more income by encouraging Indian industries. But I would appeal to the Government to go a little more fast so far as this question is concerned, of

course a little carefully also and a little cautiously so far as their expenditure is concerned. If the Government would listen to the advice of non-experts or laymen like myself, I am sure that the difficulty felt by the people now will be very much reduced, because electric power will be available for running railway trains and other things. In this way we will be able to reduce a good deal of the fuel difficulty. I am glad that negotiations are going on between the Government and the Railway Board to use the electric power by the South Indian Railway and other companies."

* The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" Mr. President, Sir, I shall first give the information which my hon. Friend, Mr. Saldanha, wanted. He wanted to know details regarding the survey connected with the hydro-electric schemes. These are the details. There are several places which are either intended to be surveyed or are being surveyed. The first and most important of these places is Pykara in the Nilgiris. Another place is Papanasam in the Tinnevelly district. The third place is Kolab. The fourth place is Pinjikavi in the Palni Hills. There is a fifth place known as Javadi Hills in the North Arcot district. Sixthly, there is the Periyar river in the Madura district. Of all these places, the Pykara has been investigated and investigation is going on more or less in Papanasam and Kolab. With reference to the other schemes, the Government have, for financial reasons, come to the conclusion that it is not desirable that investigations should be going on and survey conducted in all these places simultaneously. At the same time, the Government have ordered and given instructions to the Chief Engineer, Mr. Howard, that, as far as possible without much expense, the Periyar and Palni projects might also be investigated. The stages of these schemes which have been investigated, viz., Pykara, Papanasam and Kolab, are these. So far as the Pykara scheme is concerned, the Chief Engineer, Mr. Howard, originally submitted three schemes to the Government. It is not necessary to refer to all these three schemes now, because he has revised the estimates, which he originally submitted. He has now submitted revised estimates for these schemes.

" I shall now confine myself to the Pykara scheme alone. He has revised his original proposals and submitted three alternative schemes, called A, B and C. Of these three schemes, two are intended to develop power in such a way as to electrify the railways also. Another scheme is not intended to develop power in such a manner as to be utilized for the purposes of railways. The cost of these three schemes is as follows :— With reference to the first of these schemes which is intended to supply power for the purposes of railways, the cost in the first year of operation will come to Rs. 2,19,82,300 and in the tenth year of operation the cost will come to Rs. 3,20,75,200. Then with reference to the other scheme, which is also connected with the electrification of railways, the estimates are these :— In the first year of operation it is calculated to cost Rs. 1¾ crores, the exact figure being Rs. 1,76,69,910. At the end of ten years this amount is expected to increase to very nearly two crores—Rs. 1,93,00,000 and odd. The third scheme is not in any way intended to be utilized for the purpose of railways. The estimated cost of this scheme during the first year will be more than one crore and twenty lakhs. At the end of ten years, it will be one crore and 32 lakhs. These three schemes are estimated in such a way that the two schemes

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which are intended for railway purposes also can easily be worked as one scheme without any difficulty. The scheme which is not intended to be utilized for purposes of railways can also be worked along with the other schemes without any serious alterations or modifications. That is how the Pykara scheme stands.

"Then with reference to the Papanasam scheme, two estimates have been prepared, one, which is very modest, costing only Rs. 50 lakhs and the other costing one crore of rupees, or exactly Rs. 98 lakhs. The latter scheme, if it is put into operation, is estimated to cost at the end of fifth year Rs. 138 lakhs. This scheme can succeed only if there are any industrial concerns to be worked by this scheme. As a matter of fact, there was some talk of some company taking up a concern connected with the manufacture of paper near the Papanasam Falls. That scheme has fallen through and the Chief Engineer is now making enquiries as to whether it is possible to start other industries, like celluloids or artificial silk. Unless there is some prospect of these industries becoming successful, it it not very likely that the Papanasam scheme will be a success. That is how that scheme stands. In any case if Government ultimately undertake to put this scheme into operation, it must be a very modest one.

"With reference to the third scheme at Kolab, in the Vizagapatam district, the prospects are not very bright unless the railway companies undertake to take our power for the purpose of electrifying their lines; the prospects of which, again, are not very bright.

"With reference to the other two schemes in Palni and in the Madura district, nothing practically worth mentioning has been done. The results of the investigation of these two schemes have not been crystalized.

"With reference to the information wanted by my hon. Friend, Mr. Venkataramana Ayyangar, it is restricted to a scheme which is practically a small one known as the Glen-Morgan scheme. It is practically an auxiliary scheme connected with the larger scheme of Pykara. When the bigger scheme is put into operation this scheme will form part of that scheme. This small scheme will form the auxiliary or the first part of the Pykara scheme. It is a small scheme intended to develop energy to the extent of about 1,000 horse-power in the beginning. It is expected that this installation will ultimately develop 1,500 horse-power. The reasons why the Government undertook this scheme and began the work at once are these. In the first place, negotiations were going on between the Railway Board and this Government; the former were asked to say whether they would take power from this scheme for electrifying their railways; negotiations were becoming more or less prolonged, and it was found difficult to come to a speedy conclusion. As I submitted, all the works that are now undertaken and put into operation, viz., the auxiliary and the preliminary scheme of Glen-Morgan, will ultimately form part of the bigger scheme when it is sanctioned. As soon as this smaller scheme is completed, Government can supply energy to the neighbouring towns of Ootacamund, Wellington and Coonoor and to the tea estates in the vicinity. My hon. Friend was right when he stated that I made a mistake on the previous occasion when I said

that this scheme was intended to supply power to Coimbatore, as it would not be possible to supply power to Coimbatore from this small work.

"Secondly, if ultimately it is not possible for any reason to carry on with the bigger scheme, even then this power that can be developed from the Glen-Morgan can be utilized, and the water of the Glen-Morgan Reservoir can also be utilized for irrigation purposes. The cost of the scheme is about 12,38,000 odd. My hon. Friend wanted to know how far the negotiations with the Railway Board have gone. As a matter of fact we have resolved, with reference to the three other schemes two of which are intended to electrify railways, to ask through the Government of India for the sanction of the Secretary of State. I may even tell my hon. Friend that the draft of the letter to the Secretary of State has been practically approved. 1 p.m.

"Then, my hon. Friend referred to another point, namely, Indianization, that is the employment of Indian talent. There is, I understand, an idea of employing an Electrical Engineer for the purpose of teaching electricity in the Engineering College and the Government also are very particular about Indianization by the employment of as many Indians as possible. As a matter of fact there are many Indian subordinates who are employed under Mr. Howard and the Government will also try their best to give effect to this policy of Indianization."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"May I know the terms of employment of Mr. Howard?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"I believe he has been engaged for a period of about five years and after the expiry of five years, as I submitted the other day, as it is the ambition of Government to connect the different parts of the Presidency with a net-work of electric stations in the course of twenty years. Government may consider if Mr. Howard's services may not be re-engaged."

Mr. J. A. DAVIS :—"Mr. President, Sir, so far as the Pykara scheme is concerned, you will remember that it was at the special instance of the municipality of Ootacamund that it was pressed upon the Government to go on with the scheme and the municipality was prepared to pay half the cost of that scheme. It was only for want of large consumers that the scheme has not progressed. I also press with my friend Mr. Venkataramana Ayyangar that the scheme should be expedited. So far as Ootacamund is concerned, we have been promised current in June or July. In this connexion I want to press on Government that they should not make it too hard upon the municipality. It was only because the Ootacamund municipality was prepared to put money and that it was really in earnest about it that Government was able to take up the first section. I wish to appeal to the Law Member that he must not make it too hard on this municipality. I complain particularly about the high fees charged for electricity. For instance, the Coonoor municipality had to borrow money and pay to Government, with what result? A very high fee has been charged. I say that at least for the next ten years, electricity should be supplied at the cost of Government, because it is impossible for these municipalities to pay very high fees. At the same time, I wish also to thank Government for having come forward and started the scheme for the benefit of the municipality of

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Ootacamund as well as of Coonoor. I also appeal to Mr. Venkataramana Ayyangar to see that the people of Coimbatore also come forward to consume the current at a reasonable rate, so that the scheme may be a success."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"The offer of Coimbatore is already there."

Mr. J. A. DAVIS :—"Anyhow, as the present charges for the current are high, sufficient consumers are not coming forward. Once again I appeal to the hon. the Law Member to see that Government charges are not made too high to start with."

Mr. K. V. R. SWAMI :—"Mr. President, I am against all these schemes altogether for this reason. It is indeed, as will appear, that Government . . . ."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"If the hon. Member proposes to oppose the grant, let us dispose of this motion first.

"The question is :

'*to reduce the allotment of Rs. 3,90,000 for Hydro-Electric Schemes by Rs. 100*'."

The motion was put to the House and lost.

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"The demand is now for the discussion of the House."

* Mr. K. V. R. SWAMI :—"Mr. President, I oppose the whole grant. It is for this reason. I am afraid the Government want to launch on all these big schemes with a view to borrowing money and spending the same for machinery and on paying experts who belong to other countries and for purchasing machinery from other countries. They want not thousands or lakhs, but they want crores and crores. The first scheme—A. Pykara—is estimated at three crores. What we want very badly in this country is irrigation schemes, but electric schemes can wait. Of course, I can understand very well why Mr. Wood is laughing at the idea of opposing the scheme. He may have very good reasons for doing so, because this would encourage European industries and there will be so much gain for the European companies, and that money would flow out from this country is a thing which my hon. Friend Mr. Wood would approve of. Even on other occasions my hon. Friend was against the development of anything like industrial developments in this country and he may be very favourable for such schemes as these. In a poor country like ours, we would not suffer for want of electricity, but what this country is in need of is really industrial development and also irrigation development. So far as industrial development is concerned, this Government unfortunately is in the hands of European merchants that are here, as well as the agents of the Secretary of State and the Indian Government. Their own inclination is against the development of Indian industries. If money is borrowed for purposes like this, future Finance Member would say as the present Finance Member says, that he wants money to pay off all these debts ; it is very good for the province not to have any debts. It matters very little whether irrigation is starved or whether industry is starved and whether the money is collected

from the poor ryots or not. They have only got sympathy with these schemes and they do not care for the interests of the poor ryots. For these reasons I oppose the entire grant."

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED :—"Mr. President, Sir, I rise to oppose this grant for one or two reasons which concern the city of Madras. The first thing which I want to refer to is that in spite of repeated requests and also interpellations, and also cut motions last year, the Government have not thought it fit to reduce the rate charged for electric current in the city of Madras. The pre-War rate for electric current . . ."

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"I rise to a point of order with reference to Mr. Basheer Ahmed's speech. The demand is with reference to the Glen-Morgan scheme and has nothing to do with electricity or rates in the city of Madras. They are altogether unconnected . . ."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"Is it not within the portfolio of the hon. Member to reduce the rates for electric current in Madras?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"I cannot say that off-hand."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"Is it left to the Corporation or is it within the control of Government to fix the rates?"

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED :—"He is ignorant of all those things."

The hon. Mr. M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"I cannot say that at once."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"If the hon. Member will proceed with his speech, the hon. Law Member in the meanwhile will enlighten us as to that point."

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED :—"The rate before the War was 4 annas per unit and during the War, the materials for electricity and its accessories had gone high and so Government thought fit to enhance the rate by one anna, that is from 4 to 5 annas, on the understanding that the rate would be reduced as soon as the prices went down. After the War, I have enquired in several of the engineering firms and I have come to the conclusion that the prices of accessories and materials have certainly gone down. Last year, the Corporation passed a resolution requesting Government to reduce the rate per unit of current in the city of Madras, in view of the fact that consumption had grown to a very large extent and also because the cost of materials had gone down. The company was also, consequent on the extension of the scheme, making very enormous profits quite out of proportion to the capital invested. After all, who are the people that have to pay these enhanced rates? They are not merely the rich people, but also poor and middle-class people. I do not see why the company is making a large profit, and when the price of materials has gone down, the Government should not reduce the rate per unit of current in the city of Madras, if not in the mufassal cities also.

"The next point I wish to refer to is the administration by Government of the Electricity Act. In the city of Madras, the Corporation is said to be an autonomous body in the matter of granting licences for the installation of electric plant within the city limits. All the same, with that understanding

the Government have not given complete power to the Corporation to exercise the discretion vested in them. The Government issue licences over the head of the Corporation and they do not consult the Corporation before issuing licences. Just to favour one company or another they issue licences in localities where there is congestion and also overcrowding. For instance, I may refer to Thambu Chetti street, which is very narrow and thickly populated and also very congested. There is a big electric plant installed there for the purpose of supplying current to tramways, for lighting and for other purposes. . .

1-15 p.m. " The Corporation was approached to stop this nuisance in this crowded locality ; and when it approached the subject it was found that the licence was held from the Government and thus though the Corporation was desirous to look to the health of the citizens and rate-payers of the city it was not able to do anything in the matter. That is a matter for the Government to consider and I hope they will see that hereafter no licence is issued without the previous consent of the Corporation ; and if the people of the locality object they will take all steps to cancel the licence or remove the electric plant to another place. Sir, after all, the Madras Electric Tramway Company is not a Government concern. The company is running its trams under a licence from both the Corporation and Government, and that the company is governed by the provisions of the Madras Municipality Act. But contrary to the provisions, the tramway company has more than once snapped its fingers against the Corporation and Government. For example, the company is bound under the licence and under the Madras Municipality Act to maintain the road covered by the tram lines themselves. But when they were called upon to undertake it, they pleaded inability and took shelter under the plea of want of funds. Later on they approached Government and said that this matter should be referred to an arbitration board, although within the provisions of the Act this is not a matter which is to be settled by arbitration. The Corporation protested against the undue interference of the Government in a matter concerning the Corporation and the company, and in spite of the protest of the Corporation, the Government, to encourage a foreign firm, appointed an arbitration board to decide a matter of purely domestic nature. This is not a satisfactory manner in which Government should settle the affairs of the Corporation and the tramway company. I therefore urge Government to stop all undue interference and give complete powers to the company and the Corporation to settle matters between themselves. Once more I request Government to hand over their powers to the Corporation so that in future such things do not occur."

* Mr. C. E. Wood :—" Sir, I did not intend to intervene in this debate but as my hon. Friend Mr. Swami has taken exception to the laughter evoked in these benches by his words I feel I must put up a defence.

" I admit there was some amusement. The hon. Member calls himself a nationalist and then gets up in this House and says he is against all electrical schemes. I am surprised as I think we may take it that the hon. Member is against all development of his country, because every country in the world is to-day occupied with trying to find cheap sources of electric supply in order to promote industrial and agricultural development. The hon. Member, though a nationalist, wants no progress."

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Mr. K. V. R. SWAMI :—"I am objecting to the installation of electric schemes with borrowed funds."

* Mr. C. E. WOOD :—"Sir, this sort of theory seems to be held by many people, not necessarily only by the people of India, that the introduction of capital from outside is very harmful to the country. In my opinion it does not matter where the capital comes from and I consider it most fortunate that, in spite of the troublous times in India, Indian credit still remains good and India is able to borrow. I certainly agree that capital should, so far as is possible, be found within the country but I challenge anyone in this House with a knowledge of Economics to say that, provided the money is utilized properly on development, it is harmful to the country to borrow.

"Knowing, as we do, that the development of agriculture and industry is vitally necessary it is ridiculous to stop this just because capital cannot be raised within the country.

"Some hon. Members seem to support this motion because they are against the importation of plant and machinery, and much against the employment of Europeans to erect and work it.

"The practice is common in all countries for buyers of new machinery and plant to secure from the manufacturers people with a knowledge of such plant and machinery ; and it is usual to employ these people permanently if possible to ensure that the machinery is worked efficiently or to secure them temporarily for erection and for running the machinery for a time. This, I think, has been the aim over the Mettur project."

* Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—"Sir, I did not want to intervene in this debate, but after listening to Mr. Wood I feel that I should say a few words. I am sure that Mr. Swami did not mean that we do not want any hydro-electric schemes. All he said was that, looking at the condition of our finances, which, by the way, are at the very verge of bankruptcy, the question we have to consider is how best to utilize the money we have. Most of us believe that if it is a question of choice between irrigation and hydro-electric scheme most of us would vote for irrigation (hear, hear) not because we believe hydro-electric schemes to be unnecessary but that we prefer to utilize the money we have for irrigation ; for the obvious reason that such investment will bring about the prosperity of large masses of the people who have to depend on agriculture for their sustenance. It is obvious that if the money is allotted for irrigation it will all be spent in the country but if it is given for hydro-electric schemes at least 75 per cent of it will go in the shape of foreign orders. I think that is what Mr. Swami had in his mind when he spoke."

* Mr. A. KALESWARA RAO :—"Sir, I submit the speech of my hon. Friend Mr. Wood is most unconvincing. He attacked all nationalists as if they are against any kind of development of the country. All we want to say is that under the present state of finance we cannot vote for any undertaking where we will have to borrow large sums of money from outside. Sir, sometime back we found the Justice party cursing the Mettur project and the Hydro-electric scheme as being scandalous. But now they have changed their opinion with regard to the Mettur project. Perhaps this may be due to the fact that the elections are coming." (Laughter.)

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"We have finished the Mettur project and I hope the hon. Member will confine his remarks to the electric installation scheme."

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* Mr. A. KALESWARA RAO :—" Sir, even with regard to the second scheme they have changed their opinion and they say it is a beneficial scheme. Perhaps, this is due to the fact that one of the members of their party has been raised to the position of Law Member. What we say is that we independent members are helpless, and the whole thing is managed by the irresponsible executive.

" These are Reserved departments under the control of an irresponsible executive."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" Is the hon. Member likely to continue for a long time ? "

* Mr. A. KALESWARA RAO :—" No, Sir. I have finished."

Demand No. VIII under Electricity was then put to the House and carried and the grant was made.

The House then adjourned for lunch to meet again at 2-30 p.m.

After Lunch (2-30 p.m.)

DEMAND IX—GENERAL ADMINISTRATION—HEADS OF PROVINCES.

* The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :— " Mr. President, Sir, I beg to move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 7·24 lakhs under Demand IX—General Administration—Heads of Provinces."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" I understand that none of the motions on the agenda are to be moved."

The demand was put to the House and declared lost. The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Muhammad Usman Sahib Bahadur demanded a poll and the House divided thus :—

Ayes.

1. The hon. Sir Norman Majoribanks.
2. ,, Khan Bahadur Sir Muhammad Usman Sahib Bahadur.
3. ,, Mr. T. E. Moir.
4. ,, Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar.
5. ,, Mr. M. R. Seturatnam Ayyar.
6. ,, Mr. S. Muthiah Mudaliyar.
7. ,, Dr. P. Subbarayan.
8. Mr. S. H. Slater.
9. ,, A. McG. C. Tampoe.
10. ,, C. W. E. Cotton.
11. ,, M. A Manikkavelu Nayakar.
12. ,, Syed Tajudin Sahib.
13. ,, H. B. Ari Gowder.
14. ,, A. B. Shetty.
15. ,, R. Foulkes.
16. ,, P. J. Gnanavaram Pillai.
17. ,, J. Kuppuswami.
18. Subadar-Major S. A. Nanjappah Bahadur.
19. Mr. T. M. Narayanaswami Pillai.
20. ,, K. Krishnan.
21. ,, N. Siva Raj.
22. Rao Sahib L. C. Guruswami.
23. Mr. V. I. Muniswami Pillai.
24. ,, W. P. A. Soundara Pandia Nadar.
25. Mr. S. Subrahmanya Moopanar.
26. ,, Daniel Thomas.
27. ,, S. Venkiah.
28. Rao Sahib R. Srinivasan.
29. Mr. W. O. Wright.
30. ,, F. E. James.
31. ,, S. N. Dorai Raja.
32. Mr. S. Arpudaswami Udayar.
33. Khan Bahadur P. Khalif-ul-lah Sahib Bahadur.
34. Swami A. S. Sahajanandam.
35. Mr. V. Ramjee Rao.
36. ,, B. Ramachandra Reddi.
37. Rao Bahadur C. S. Ratnasabhapati Mudaliyar.
38. ,, Sir A. P. Patro.
39. Diwan Bahadur P. C. Ethirajulu Nayudu.
40. Mr. P. T. Rajan.
41. Khan Bahadur S. K. Abdul Razack Sahib Bahadur.
42. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar.
43. Khan Sahib T. M. Moidoo Sahib Bahadur.
44. Rao Bahadur B. Muniswami Nayudu.
45. Mr. K. Sarabha Reddi.
46. ,, A. V. Bhanoji Rao.

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Noes.

1. Mr. P. C. Venkatapati Raju.
2. ,, R. Srinivasa Ayyangar
3. ,, Sami Venkatachalam Chetti.
4. ,, S. Satyamurti.
5. ,, C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar.
6. ,, J. A. Saldanha.
7. ,, G. Harisarvottama Rao.
8. ,, Basheer Ahmed Sayeed.
9. ,, C. S. Govindaraja Mudaliyar.
12. ,, Abdul Hameed Khan.
11. ,, L. K. Tulasiram.
12. ,, K. V. R. Swami.
13. ,, D. Narayana Raju.
14. Dr. B. S. Mallayya.
15. Mr. K. R. Karant.
16. ,, K. Madhavan Nayar.
17. ,, P. Anjaneyulu.
18. ,, C. Obi Reddi.
19. ,, A. Parasurama Rao.
20. ,, C. Ramasomayajulu
21. ,, T. Adinarayana Chettiyar.
22. ,, A. Kaleswara Rao.
23. ,, K. Uppi Sahib.
24. Sriman Biswanath Das Mahasayo.
25. Mr. K. S. Sivasubrahmanya Ayyar.

Neutral.

1. Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar.
2. ,, Ramnath Goenka.
3. Mr. K. P. Raman Menon.
4. ,, R. Nagan Gowda.

Ayes 46. Noes 25. Neutral 4.

The motion was carried and the grant made.

DEMAND X—GENERAL ADMINISTRATION—LEGISLATIVE BODIES.

* The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" Mr. President, Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I move

' *that Government be granted a sum not exceeding Rs. 4·63 lakhs under Demand X General Administration—Legislative Bodies* '."

* Mr. P. C. VENKATAPATI RAJU :—" Mr. President, Sir, I move

' *that the allotment of Rs. 3,98,800 for Legislative Bodies be reduced by Rs. 100.*'

" This motion is given notice of to impress upon the Government the necessity for not extending the term of the Provincial Legislative Council. It is really after three full long years that the Members of this Legislative Council are judged by their masters, the electorates. Unfortunately in this country instances are not wanting when the election pledges were given the go-bye immedietely after the Members entered the Council. Mr. President, you know that even the Council Members who came under the label of one party or other have been changing their creed and requesting you to change their seats as well from the opposition to the co-operation benches. The well-known dictum that has been observed in practice and has become a convention in all civilized countries that when once any Member wishes to give the go-bye to his election pledges, to the solemn pledges he made to the electorate, to the solemn promises he made to the electorate on the understanding of which he was returned to the Council he should resign and seek re-election is not in the least respected. Even though the electorate can be very vast in this country on account of the plural constituencies and the extensive area of the country, and even when these voters who send Members to the Council express in unmistakeable terms that a Member whom they have returned to the Council has lost all their confidence, the Members still continue to sit in the Council without taking an opportunity to ascertain the verdict of their electorates. They may even assume a diametrically opposite policy to that which they had enunciated at the time of election and still continue as members. Under these circumstances, if the Government were to come to the succour of the hon. Members who are elected to this Council and save them for some time more from their own electorates it is highly objectionable. Even the little responsibility that

was given to this Council has become highly illusory. It is a good thing that even our Madras Government have realized the fact and have put it in their memorandum to the Simon Commission that the carrying on of diarchy in this province does not in any way show that the persons carrying on this diarchical system are in any way subjected to any responsibility either to the electorate or to the House in general. It is these people who broke with their electorates that are being helped by this sort of extension of this Council. And during these three years momentous changes have taken place, momentous principles have come into existence upon which it is but right that the electorate should give its verdict.

2-45 p.m. " To mention a few, with regard to the Royal Commission on Reforms, it is not that either the Government or the people do not know what the verdict of the people is, but to have an authoritative verdict which cannot be gainsaid by even those that are supporting the Simon Commission, it is necessary, before the Simon Commission submits its report, to know how the gentlemen that have taken into their head the idea of supporting such a commission will be treated by the country. When on a specific understanding, these Members of Council were elected, that they are to continue only for three years, to extend that term by any period is only defrauding the people, who have got the right to effect changes, if necessary, in the representatives who, they think, have not properly carried out the mandates of the electorate. It is better even to the Government and the authorities concerned to know the real mind of the people on the various burning questions that are engaging the attention of the public. By merely extending the term, Government will only be suppressing the expression of views by the people, who are after all the persons affected by the constitution. Such suppression of the real wishes of the people is not in the least advantageous even to the Government itself. They will be in a better position in making any alterations in the policy or in the constitution, if they know clearly the real mind of the people. But if the Government want to shut their eyes to the real needs and situation of the country, they will have to count upon a far stronger movement and an agitation more potent than the present one to obtain what they want. Even though under extraordinary circumstances some extension of the Council under the Government of India Act is permissible, it was never intended that such a power of extension should be utilized to prevent the real representatives of the people being in the Council. It will be clearly understood if any extension is made now, it is only to increase the life of those co-operators through whom the Government are carrying on this diarchical system, against the strong wishes of the people and they are resorting to such, if I may say, tactics, for the sake of their supporters. It is not the interests of the few that have to be considered by the Government but the interests of the country at large and if they cared to pay even the slightest respect to the wishes of the people, no extension should be given to the life of this Council."

* Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" Mr. President, Sir, I beg to second this motion made by the Leader of the Swarajist party, not with a view to securing any tactical advantage thereby if elections are held immediately, but because I consider that an early dissolution of this Council is essential in the interests of the party in power, of the opposition and of the Province in general. Sir, we all know what value we are to attach to the diarchical system of Government and it cannot be condemned in stronger

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language than it has been by the Government of Madras itself. The little good we can derive from diarchy can be derived, to my mind only if certain conditions exist. We must have a ministry with a working majority behind it, we must have an opposition which is prepared to take the consequences of its vote, and also an attitude on the part of all concerned for being prepared to take a non-party attitude in truly national matters. Now, Sir, I am not going to deny the fact, when the ministry came into office in this term, that party had not a working majority behind it—and my Friend there asks why then did you take up office and why did you continue even for the time you did? My answer to that is, realizing the conditions of this Province, I thought I would be doing a service by taking up the office; at the same time I made it clear that if we were not able to secure a working majority within three months of taking office we were prepared to lay down our office."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"Instead of developing arguments on the personal grounds of accepting the ministry or rejecting the ministry, I think it is better for the hon. Member to confine in this debate to the necessity of dissolving this Council or extending the term of this Council."

* Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—"I was just replying to a question that came from one of the hon. Members, and if you will allow me . . ."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"Every question that is put or an attempted reply to it cannot be relevant to the motion under consideration."

* Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—"I bow to your ruling, Sir. My point is this. I want to show how the ministry which took up office under disadvantageous circumstances has failed to give real service to the country, and that it is therefore essential that a change should be brought about by all constitutional means. I am developing the argument that the late ministry which consisted of my Friend Dr. Subbarayan, Mr. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar and myself could not do much good to the province."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"I am again to point out to the hon. Member that I am not able to find the relevancy of the line of his argument."

* Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—"Sir, if the ministry as constituted now could not work satisfactorily, it will be open for me to suggest that a change if brought about would be better. That is all my point."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"I have to point out to the hon. Member to take a suitable opportunity—when the ministerial salary comes up—whether this ministry should continue in office or not. Here the question is whether the term of the Council should be extended or not. I request the hon. Member to strictly confine himself within the four corners of this motion."

* Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—"I am trying to carry out your instructions in the matter. I am anxious, Sir, that in the interests of the people the province should be given the choice of having a change of ministry."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"I request the hon. Member not to refer to the ministry in this motion."

* Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—"Very well, Sir. I find, Sir, that it is not possible for us to have many measures that are necessary in the interests of the country. For example, the Local Boards Act, the Municipalities Act, the Religious Endowments Act and many other Acts are long

overdue, and I think, Sir, that under the present circumstances we may never see the beginning of these things. I think, therefore, that a chance must be given for such things being introduced, and I feel that such chance could be had only by the early dissolution of the Council. Therefore, I plead, in the interests of the province, that an early dissolution should be brought about."

* Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—" Mr. President, Sir, this motion is definitely aimed at putting a stop to the efforts made in certain quarters to extend the term of this Council, so that it may be convenient for the Simon Commission to function in its own way and to press on the people of this country, on the unwilling population of this land, their conclusions. We never wanted the Simon Commission, Sir, and it has been evident to everybody in the world that India has rejected co-operation with the Commission. Wherever the Commission has gone, the people have definitely told the Commissioners . . ."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" Order, order. I am only waiting to see the connexion between co-operation with the Simon Commission and the dissolution of the Council."

* Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—" I am sure, Sir, there is a connexion between the two for this reason. This question would not have arisen at all but for the fact that the Government from the Treasury Benches have declined to answer the number of questions and queries that were put on the floor of this House with regard to the extension of the term of the present Legislative Council, specifically on the ground of the Simon Commission. I therefore felt that it was perfectly correct to speak when this motion has been brought forward, to clinch the issue and find out what exactly the Government intend to do, whether they will challenge the country and take the opinion of the country on the measures that they are taking, or whether they would take shelter under a particular section in the Government of India Act and extend the term of the Council, so that in a convenient manner they may carry forward their schemes, either in secret or in open, and come forward at a later stage, with some sop to Cerberus, so that they may have some slight strength on their side when the elections come off. It was that aspect that I was referring to when I talked of the Simon Commission. It is evident that the Government are still pondering over the matter and have not made up its mind so far as this Presidency is concerned. I know, Sir, that in this Presidency, the Government are under a delusion that they have some strength amongst the people, that they are likely to achieve certain things in spite of the opposition, that they have some parties helping them to carry on the administration, that they have some persons co-operating, ostensibly some persons co-operating with them in the matter of the Simon Commission. Therefore, I feel that there may be some hesitation in the mind of the Government, so far as this province is concerned. This motion raises a question of vital importance. We in the Opposition are prepared to challenge the Government to a general election according to the Act.

3 p.m. " We do not want the Government to exercise the power of extending this Council and thus allow members to escape the vote of the country on a particular policy that they have pursued. I refer more especially to the Ministers who are sitting on the Treasury Benches. We do not want the Government to give a handle to those who have broken away from their

party, broken their election pledges and those who have taken seats on the Treasury Benches on the specific understanding that they would co-operate with the Simon Commission. This is a challenge to them. It is also a challenge to those parties who have undertaken to co-operate with the Simon Commission. It is not merely a challenge to Government but it is a challenge to all these put together and therefore this motion is made on the floor of this House. That is the *raison d'être* for the motion.

" Moreover hon. Members are aware that we have been unable to carry on what is required in the best interests of the country and therefore by extending the Councils no further purpose will be served. I therefore desire to support this motion."

Mr. J. A. DAVIS :—" Mr. President, Sir, I do not see why this question should be at all mixed up with the Simon Commission. It is a question as to when the elections should come off. If the elections are to take place after the dissolution of the present Council, according to the Government of India Act, we can only carry on for two years when the new constitution will have to be brought into existence. Are we to spend money and time for the sake of sitting in this Council only for two years? Will it not be better, on the other hand, to extend the present Council for a period of two years and work the new constitution as soon as it comes ?

" Again, I do not see what this has to do with the Ministers. The Ministers are there and they will continue till the present Council ends.

" I do not think it is fair either to the country or to anybody else that we should have the elections, unless the Government are certain that the members so elected are to serve for three years. If there is any such guarantee forthcoming to that effect, then this Council need not be extended.

" Then again there is also this consideration. If the term of the Council is not extended, it is likely that the period of the new constitution will be delayed. So it is advisable to have the term of the present Council extended in order to hasten the new constitution, as I am sure we will be getting a more progressive Government, that is, Provincial Autonomy. So far as I know and I am almost certain that will be a boon to the country. I do not see why we should defer our progress by having the elections now. So, I say, let us have the Council extended and let the Simon Commission expedite its report and let us work the new constitution as soon as possible."

* Mr. MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB :—" Mr. President, Sir, those members who waxed eloquent on this question of not extending the life of the Council, I think, were not sincere when they said that the life of the present Council should not be extended. I do not think that in their heart of hearts they so desire. They are only playing to the gallery. This is an election device."

Mr. K. R. KARANT :—" On a point of order, Sir. Is any hon. Member of this House right in saying that other hon. Members are not sincere ? "

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" If such a charge is made against any particular hon. Member, it would be out of order. I think that the hon. Member Mr. Schamnad referred to a section of the House and even as to that he did not mention any particular section or party. He only says that certain members of the Council are not sincere."

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Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" He specifies those who have spoken. I submit Sir, I deprecate such things."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" Has he referred to the members who have spoken ?"

(Several voices : ' He said those members who have waxed eloquent.')

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" I think the hon. Member will withdraw the remark."

* Mr. MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB :—" I bow to your ruling, Sir, and withdraw that portion of my remark. I submit, Sir, that many members on the opposite side have expresed to me that they are for the extension of the life of the Councils, but I will not mention their names. Now they are only playing to the gallery. They want to pacify the electorate by this means.

" I only desire to submit that it will be a waste of energy, waste of time and waste of money, and there will be nothing gained. Even the matter of the Simon Commission is not going to be settled by dissolving the present Council and holding elections. Even if the Council is dissolved and elections are held after the report of the Commission is published, you can know what the country is for, i.e., whether the country is for the Commission or against it. You need not test the feeling of the country by dissolving the Council just now. As now the Madras Government have consented to give complete Provincial autonomy which means that all the subjects will be transferred to the elected Ministers, the masses will only welcome such a constitution and congratulate the Simon Commission and say that the Government is our own. So I oppose this motion."

* Mr. RAMANATH GOENKA :—" Mr. President, Sir, I rise to support the motion before the House. The reason for my doing so is that two hon. Members on the other side of the House have spoken against the motion. They adduced no arguments, much less gave any reason, but simply said ' Let us go on as we are for two years more '. They also said that there will be some expense and it is better to go on for two years more without that. Afterwards they said, ' We will have a new heaven and a new earth in the shape of Provincial autonomy '. Whether the Simon Commission reports or no, my objection, Mr. President, is this. To me the issue is very clear. Has this Council which has co-operated with the Simon Commission done it rightly or wrongly and whether they have carried out the mandate of the constituencies ? That is the question. I think this can be answered only by dissolving this Council. That is why I lay much stress on this dissolution, though the hon. Members on the other side lay much stress on the report of the Simon Commission. I say that will be not worth the paper on which it may be written. I am sure a dissolution will give the members a clear mandate from their constituencies as to whether the country is in favour of the Simon Commission or whether they are against it. I want the constituencies to give an answer as early as possible to those people who have broken their election pledges, solemnly made, and are sticking like leeches to their offices, and this can be done only by dissolving the present Council.

" My leader, Mr. Ranganatha Mudaliyar, referred to the Ministry. But I will not refer to the Ministry in obedience to your ruling. But I should like to say that this Ministry does not enjoy the confidence of the House

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(A voice: 'Not all.') (Opposition benches: 'Question.') They may have the confidence of the House by hook or crook. But that again is another thing. I say that they have not an elected majority behind them. (Mr. Mahmud Schmnad Sahib: You are only a nominated member). I may be elected tomorrow. But I want to make it clear that I am here as a matter of right and not as a matter of grace. I represent my community here.

"There is one other thing and I am done. As was pointed out by my hon. Friend Mr. Ranganatha Mudaliyar we are not doing any work at all. The Ministers have not done anything. The measures which were promised by the Ministers have not seen the light of the day. That is the reason why I desire that this Council should be dissolved and we should hold fresh elections to enable us to show to the people what the Ministers have done and how they ought to be treated."

* Mr. S. N. DORAI RAJA:—"After hearing the high sounding words from other side, especially after the hysterics of my hon. Friend Mr. Goenka, I think it necessary to intervene in this debate. I think they are mere camouflage intended to hide the real intentions.

"Sir, I am very pleased to see that after all these years, hon. Members sitting on the opposite have developed a sort of love for the diarchic system of Government which they used to characterize in season and out of season as 'hybrid' of an unnatural type. They say that by dissolving the Council they will be extending the lifetime of the Council (Cries of 'Oh!'). This means that in their heart of hearts they are not for provincial autonomy. This magnificent gesture of the Madras Government has cut the ground under the feet of the Swarajists. Their only prop now is 'Boycott of the Simon Commission' which is now aloof from the minds of the people.

"Another reason why they want to dissolve the Council is that there are one or two who are for accepting office and this object they can achieve only by dissolving the present Council.

"Sir, we have given a mandate to our committee which co-operated with the Simon Commission and the views of this committee are going to be incorporated in the report of the Simon Commission. So, it is natural and it is only just that the members that gave that mandate should be here to judge the report.

"Another reason for extending the life of the Council is this. If you say that we have extended the life of the Council by one year or six months it will be an incentive to the Parliament to send an order to the Simon Commission to hurry their report.

"For these reasons I am against the motion."

* Mr. F. E. JAMES:—"Mr. President, from the speeches of the elected Members, this appears to be a non-controversial subject on which I thought I might with safety make my maiden speech. It appears that the elected Members are only too anxious to meet their constituencies. I understand that the Ministers look forward to an election. The Swarajist party I believe is anxious to meet its constituencies likewise. The Independents also desire an election. The Justice party is agreed to go to the country. Only the nominated members seem to be reluctant to meet whatever 3-15 p.m.

constituency they have. And, as far as I am concerned I am delighted to meet my constituency at any time, in any place, by day or by night. Speaking seriously however, from a constitutional point of view, there is one point in this question which lawyers will appreciate. It is not in general desirable for any legislature to extend its life beyond the normal period laid down in the Statute Book. (Cries of 'Hear, hear') I say in general, because there are circumstances which are sufficiently important and urgent to justify an extension. But unless such circumstances arise, generally speaking, the lifetime of any legislature should not go beyond its normal period. If such circumstances arise, it would cease to be a matter affecting this province only. All provinces would then be affected, and such circumstances are exceedingly limited. I think therefore from the constitutional point of view, it is undesirable that the life of any legislature should be extended. As however this does not lie in the power of the local Government I do not see how any one can vote for the motion. For myself I shall remain neutral."

* Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. Patro :—" Mr. President, I do not propose to enter into all the detailed arguments that were advanced by this or that side. I want to say on behalf of this side that my party is prepared to face the election at any time, (Hear, hear) even to-morrow. I want to say further that this is not a controversial matter and there is no need to vote for the cut; we may remain neutral at the voting (Loud laughter)."

Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti :—" Mr. President, I do not think there would have been any necessity to move a motion of the kind moved by my hon. Friend and leader Mr. Venkatapathi Raju were it not for the rumour that the Government of India is circularising the provincial governments to get their opinion in regard to the extension of the term of the provincial legislative councils and possibly also of the Indian Legislative Assembly. I rise to speak in favour of the motion for two reasons. One of them is provincial and the other is national. The national reason is that on the eve of the report of the Simon Commission it is necessary that we must get the mandate of the electorate and their verdict on the attitude of the provincial council in their co-operation with the Indian Statutory Commission. Apart from that there is the reason, namely, provincial. Sir, ever since the third legislative council was constituted we have been witnessing a number of political and constitutional absurdities being committed under the name of diarchy. I mean to say that the position of any of the parties in this House has been found far from comfortable all these $2\frac{1}{2}$ years. From the memorandum of the hon. the Leader of the House published in the papers I find that even the reserved side is justifiably disgusted with the present constitution and that it is unable to work it. And I have no doubt that the Ministry, constituted as it, is is unable to turn out any work either to its own satisfaction or to the satisfaction of the electorate because it has no adequate strength in the House. The reserved side which ordinarily depends for support for the measures they want to introduce upon the strength of the Ministerial, party is, denied that assistance and is therefore unable to launch any measure of reforms for the good of the country. Several important measures in the nature of amending Bills have been suspended in the air for the mere reason that no Minister is confident of successfully piloting them in the Council as it is at present constituted. That seems to be a most undesirable state of affairs.

"My friend Rajkumar Dorai Raja, with his usual lightheartedness in regard to affairs of this House, was almost misrepresenting almost the opinion of the Congress party of this House. I do not know why he should be so anxious about our prospects of success at the elections. So long as he is consistently giving his support to the Government he is sure to get nominated to the next Council.

"I am glad to hear my hon. Friend Sir A. P. Patro stating on behalf of his party that his party also is prepared to face the election. Therefore there is absolutely no controversy and, I would be very much surprised if the Government, in the face of this unanimity of opinion with regard to the non-extension of the term of this Council, is going to say that they are advising to extend the term of a Council which is doing no good to any party. I implore the Government to say that they are not advising to extend the life of the Council."

* Rao Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU :—" Sir, I rise to speak in favour of the motion. (Hear, hear.) I was rather surprised at the attitude of my Swarajist friends who began to cry even in the initial stage of the debate that the Justice party alone was not in favour of the elections being held now. I repudiate that suggestion. If there is any party which is afraid of the elections, it is the Swarajya party. (Laughter.) I find it difficult to understand the reasons which have induced my hon. Friends on the floor of this House to put questions after questions asking the Leader of the House about the dissolution of this House. To all of them the hon. the Leader of the House said that he could not give a definite answer. So there is nothing to assume for my hon. Friends that the Government will extend the life of this Council. In spite of it all if they are anxious to table motions of this kind, they have their own good reasons. We have heard of defections from the Swarajist party and that is a matter on which they need not congratulate themselves. If they hope to make their position better by a dissolution of this Council, we welcome it and I assure them that they cannot make their position better.

"The other reason seems to be, as my hon. Friend Mr. Dorai Raja put it, that a very good section of the Swarajists are anxious to accept office as early as possible. Sir, we are also very glad that our friends have taken to that mood to-day. (Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao : Question.) If only this feeling had prevailed in the beginning when they had a majority it would have been very good for the country and then they would have had an opportunity to show their mettle and do good to the country. Instead of accepting office then they have chosen to sit on the fence and criticise everything without any responsibility. (A Voice : Question.) (Hear, hear.) We welcome the change in their attitude. I am sure that before long, not merely one section, but the whole section of the Swarajists would make up their minds to accept office if they could manage to come in a large number in the elections. (Laughter.) (Mr. Satyamurti : He laughs best who laughs last.) We will wait to see whether with the record of their work in the House and with the absolutely barren opposition they have conducted during the last two years, they would come in large numbers. We wish they do come and take the reins of Government and show to the country that as a party they could discharge the functions of a Government better than any other party. It is by the result of their discharging the

functions of Government that they have to be judged and not by their irresponsible opposition as it now obtains.

"I have got one word more to say. Sir, I say that of all the parties, the Justice party is most anxious that the elections should be held as soon as possible. Sir, we have had three Councils and if there was one term of the Council which was barren of any results, it is this. Sir, on this point there can be no difference of opinion at all. (Hear, hear.) If a new Council is formed, I am sure it would not be worse than the present Council. Any change would always be better. For these reasons on behalf of the Justice party I wish to say that we are for dissolution and if necessary we would vote for it. (Loud cries of 'Hear, hear'.)"

* The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—"Mr. President, I am sure we have had most interesting speeches on a most interesting subject. (Laughter.) The Government would be glad if it could take these speeches into consideration and come to a decision on them. Unfortunately the provision in the Government of India Act is that 'Every Governor's Legislative Council must continue for three years from its first meeting provided that the Council may be sooner dissolved by the Governor and the said period may be extended by the Governor.' (Laughter.) I am sorry, Sir, that the Governor in Council has no say in this matter. The Executive Councillors have no constitutional or statutory position to advise him in this matter in which the power is vested in the Governor personally. All I can say is that the report of this debate will be laid before His Excellency and I have no doubt that His Excellency will give it the consideration it deserves. (Loud laughter.)"

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"Mr. President, Sir, I did not expect any other answer from the hon. the Revenue Member. Indeed, he had reference to the Act also marked out like me by the green cards. I may ask him one question : Has he never discussed this matter with the Governor at all ? Does he propose to tell the Governor, 'No, Your Excellency, it is in your discretion. I propose not to discuss this matter ?' Will he say that ? And if he says that, will he expect us to believe that ? Even the hon. the Revenue Member must credit us with some more intelligence than that. We realize that this matter is statutorily in the hands of the Governor. But I should be surprised to hear that His Excellency Viscount Goschen is going to act in vacuum, and is not going to consult his usual advisers, the Members of the Executive Council and the Ministers, with regard to the time when these elections are to be held.

"That apart, Sir, the Act provides that the life of the Council may be extended only under special circumstances to be specified in the notification. I should like to know what are those special circumstances under which the life of the Council will have to be extended.

"We have had, I agree with the Revenue Member, a series of interesting speeches on this motion. My friend from Ootacamund warned us against the time and the trouble of an election, and told us solemnly that we should avoid that and continue here. I ask him to be logical. Why should we not have life-tenures of membership in this Council ? We shall stand for election once in our lives and come and sit here all the time till we die. That will be an ideal arrangement under which the electorates will be robbed of their rights. Once a councillor, always a councillor, will then be the rule. I suppose Mr. Davis will not have spoken seriously.

"Another point was that of my hon. Friend, Mr. Dorai Raja, who comes from my own place (Laughter), who said that if we postpone the life of this Council, we extend the life of diarchy and therefore the Council must be dissolved. May I know whether Mr. Davis and Mr. Dorai Raja have become confidential private secretaries of my Lord Peel and Mr. Baldwin, the Secretary of State and the Premier of the Conservative Government and of Mr. Ramsay MacDonald and Sir John Simon, who are probably the future Prime Minister and Secretary of State for India? They seem to know almost to the very minute when diarchy will be killed and new reforms introduced.

"Sir, I do not enjoy that high privilege, but I know something of Indian history, and I know that from the 20th August 1917 when Mr. Montagu made his famous pronouncement to the House of Commons, it took more than three years and a half for the new elections to be held. The Simon Commission's report, which cannot be published before the end of this year, is going to be given effect to only after it has been considered by the Joint Parliamentary Committee and the Indian Delegation and approved of by both the Houses of Parliament, and after the subsidiary committees for franchise and finance have made their recommendations; and then it will take some time for the preparation of electoral rolls. All these things will take at least three years from the date of the publication of the report. Normally if the Council is dissolved, at the end of this year, we can sit for another three years when the new elections will be held, under the new constitution, whatever it may be. 3-30 p.m.

"Secondly, may I know how they think that diarchy will be ended altogether, simply because the Madras Government have presented a memorandum? This problem is a very difficult problem, and it must be solved on far different grounds. I think therefore that the argument that we shall be extending diarchy by asking for a dissolution of the Council is certainly unbelievable although it is plausible. I want to say that periodical elections are however the only sanctions of democratic assemblies. You have seen in this debate itself, and I think the hon. the Revenue Member himself remarked in one of his expansive moments, that he sees the prospect of elections in our speeches, and I hope it is but right that at least once in three years we must remind ourselves and remind those people who send us here and to whom we are responsible, that we are here to represent and serve them.

"I should like to congratulate my hon. Friend Mr. James on his maiden speech; but I wish he wound up his speech by declaring his vote in favour of the motion. He said that constitutionally it was not advisable to extend the term of the Legislative Council. I ask why then he should spoil the effect of his maiden speech by concluding that he would not vote for the motion before the House.

"Then we had some hysterical speaking from more than one Friend as to our motives for asking for this dissolution this year. We have absolutely no motives whatever. We are always prepared to face the electorates. We have always said so and we have faced them. We came here first as nine. We are now thirty-five. My hon. Friend the Whip of the Justice party will remember that he and his party were here in serried ranks and we fought them for three years. At the elections, we sent them there and I hope they

will remain there always (cheers). If they are going to play with the electorates, if they are going to play with the Opposition, and if they are going to play with the whole country by imagining that by the distribution of patronages they can keep themselves in power, we tell the Justice party that we meet their challenge and say that we shall defeat them. (Laughter.) Sir, he laughs best who laughs last. Those who will not learn by experience, nobody can teach. You had been in office six years ago and where are you to-day? (A voice: 'Where are you?') We are the Opposition.

" Sir, a remark was made against us to the effect that we want office and therefore we want a dissolution of this Council, as otherwise our chances of getting into office will be postponed. I will answer it now fully and frankly, Mr. President. The Congress party has not decided about the acceptance of office and if it does decide in favour of acceptance of office, we will accept office. We are not like those who will go to the electorates and say that we will not accept office and, after coming here, cross the floor and accept office. If the Congress party decides that we should accept office, we will face the electorate with that issue and if we come here in a large majority we will then accept office. (Cries of 'Oh, oh!')

" Sir, my hon. Friends may as well save their throats.

" Now, Sir, let me examine the premises of their argument that we are anxious to accept office and therefore it is that we want that the Council should be dissolved. If we are anxious for the acceptance of office, I ask why should this Ministry continue for another term of three years? Do they mean that a slight delay caused on account of postponement of election will alter the position? Therefore, the moment they have adduced that argument, they have cut away the ground from under their feet. If we are confident at this time, unless we decide that we will not accept office, of coming in large majority and therefore of being able to accept office, we are equally confident that we can do so even after three years. Therefore, that argument can cut no ice whatever.

" Then, Sir, we were told by my hon. Friend from Chittoor that we have been indulging in barren opposition and we have done nothing. I say this. I have been in this Council for the last six years, and, whether it be right or wrong, we have set an example for self-sacrifice which no other party has shown. I may prove it by referring to this incident. Sir, I ask whether it is not true that this office came to you begging, and whether it is not a fact that His Excellency Lord Goschen asked us to accept office and you as leader of the Swaraj party replied that you could not accept it.

" My hon. Friend, Mr. Schamnad, may interrupt me and say anything that he pleases. I only say this. He does not understand for the time the 'A', 'B', 'C' of the constitution and he does not know what he is talking about. I think I cannot take notice of them.

" Sir, the other Members of the other party went to His Excellency the Governor for office and used every means for the offices being given to them. Whereas, we as a party when His Excellency the Governor came begging to us for accepting office, we honourably declined. That, I think, is an example of self-sacrifice. I would remind them also of the temporary self-sacrifice which they made at Coimbatore (when they found that they were not able to

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get the Ministry) by imitating us and saying 'We too will not accept office.' That is the real position and they have now forgotten what they have said at Coimbatore.

"Sir, the only point is this: there are two schools of thought in India at the present moment. The first school of thought says that there should be elections as early as possible on the question of co-operation or otherwise with the Simon Commission. Another school of thought which wants to put off the evil day as much as possible says: 'We will go on working this constitution. We will go to the country with any reforms which the Simon Commission may give us. Meantime we do not care whether the people who send us here approve of our co-operation with the Simon Commission or not. We will not go to the country and we are anxious that the life of the present Council should be extended.' That is the real issue. I ask, are Sir Sankaran Nayar and his colleagues in the Provincial Committee of the Simon Commission going to be perpetuated as Simon colleagues for two more years? Or are they going to be replaced by many other men who may be willing to co-operate with the Joint Parliamentary Committee after the elections? That is the substance of the issue and my friends are anxious that if possible the elections ought not to be held and that they must continue as Members of that Commission. It seems to me that their protestations that they are anxious for the dissolution of the Council and that they are confident of getting the offices even after election is a camouflage to deceive the electorate. My hon. Friend Sir A. P. Patro said that he was for the dissolulion of the Council but that he would be neutral, at the time of voting. That is clever tactics. Their idea seems to be that they can go to His Excellency the Governor afterwards and say 'I only spoke on the motion but at the time of voting I remained neutral,' but that they can go to the electorates and say 'I spoke for the motion and therefore supported it.'

"Sir, I appeal to the House to vote for this motion. I appeal to every elected member to vote for this question. I appeal to every elected member to consider that he is here for serving the interests of his electorate, that he is sent here for only three years, and that he can remain there only so far as he retains the confidence of the electorate. If you have the interests of the future democracy of this province at heart, I ask every hon. Member of this House, if he really values the election at all, to make up his mind to vote in favour of this motion and to impress upon the Governor's advisers and through them to the Governor that by all possible means elections should be held this year."

* Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar:—"After two hon. Members of the party to which I have the honour to belong have spoken, if I still think it necessary for me to rise and say a few words, it is not without adequate reasons to do so. My hon. friend Sir A. P. Patro who is the leader of our party has authorized me to correct a small mistake that he made. He explained in no ambiguous terms what the feelings of our party are in respect of this motion, but with regard to the voting I now say that I have his authority to declare that we are going to vote for this motion without any mental reservation whatsoever.

"Secondly we have had a challenge thrown out to the Members of the Provincial Parliamentary Committee and asked to take the country's verdict. I rise to accept that challenge most unhesitatingly. Speaking for myself and

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on behalf of the other members of the Simon Committee belonging to my party I say we are not the least afraid of facing the country. I am only surprised that the party sitting to my right, if they have eyes to see, must not have discovered that they stand discredited before the country. They have grown thinner and thinner. What was the strength of the party when you appeared before His Excellency to say you cannot accept the Ministry and what is it to-day, the strength of that party which is led by the hon. Mr. Venkatapati Raju? I ask again whether there has been a single by-election in which the hon. members of the Swaraj party have succeeded. I ask that question and let my friends say 'No'. I am glad that I have the opportunity now, as I have had often, of having to speak after the Member for the University, because he gives me excellent material for reply. It was not long ago that he discovered in this diarchy what he considered to be not an altogether barren tree, and that it could produce fruits which would be very acceptable to him. Speaking the other day at Chidambaram, that holy land of the south, he has let us some secrets of his party. He said that offices would no longer be unacceptable to them. It is no wonder that these hon. Gentlemen with their mouths watering at the prospect of their tasting the sweets of office, should bring this motion asking for an early dissolution. But the surprise is that they should pretend not to know that the country is sick of them. The country has discovered the hollowness of the pompous declarations they made at the time of the last election. The country has known how their practices have not followed their professions (Cries of 'In what respect').

"If my hon. Friend asks me in what respect he will put me to the painful necessity of giving a catalogue of all the ugly incidents of the early days of this Ministry when they basked in the sunshine of Ministerial favours.

3-45 p.m. "I have to only quote the evidence of the hon. Members of their own party who rebelled against them and exposed their vagaries. (A voice: 'You supported them.') The hon. Members of the Swarajya Party were in power when others were in office; they were sharing with the Ministerialists the spoils of office; that is what their own Members said. As I said it is sickening to go back to those days. I repeat again, Sir, that they stand discredited to-day in the eyes of all honest folk. Speaking as I do as a member of the Simon Committee, I say that we are quite prepared to go before the country and we know what the verdict of the country is going to be. Correcting, on his own authority, the statement of my hon. Friend, the Leader of the Party, I say, Sir, we are going to vote for the motion in all sincerity."

* The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" Mr. President, Sir, I had, really, no intention to take part in this debate except for the remarks that have fallen from my hon. and learned Friend, the Member for the University and my hon. Friend, Mr. Kumaraswami Reddiyar, who spoke last. It is usual to throw stones at each other by both the parties of the opposition. As my hon Friend, Mr. Venkatachalam Chetti, said, I am the victim between these two groups. I, for one, am quite willing that there should be election in the near future. (Hear, hear.) It would be unfair to believe that the members of my party who have supported me for the last three years—elected members behind me—will say that we do not want election because I think it is time that my followers as well as others in this Council

should go before the electorate and have their mandate. My hon. Friend, the learned Member for the University, talked of meeting at Phillippi. I throw the challenge back at him; let us see what the results are. He reminded me just before I was a member of his party when he said 'Let us meet at Phillippi.' The mascot has now changed; the results may be different."

* Mr. J. A. Saldanha :—"Sir, I did not intend to make a speech on this occasion. But because of my hon. Friend Mr. Muniswami Nayudu's remarks, I am obliged to speak. He asked 'What have this Opposition done during the last three years?' I have got a record—a big record—of the successes achieved by my party. (A voice: 'Publish it.') I have published it so far as I am concerned. I would point out some of our achievements by being in the opposition, which would not have been possible had we been sitting on the Ministerialist side. I shall give only one instance. I brought a Bill to amend the Madras Labour Act which ended in the repeal of the old Act; I was condemned even in London papers on that account. I wish to give only one of the several achievements of this party. I need not dilate on our other achievements during this session but shall take only 'forests' . . ."

The hon. the President :—"This is not the place and opportunity for the hon. Member to describe the achievements of his party. It must be before the electorates (laughter) and not now and here. I do not think the hon. Member is in order at all to refer to the achievements of his party."

Mr. J. A. Saldanha :—"I shall not refer to them hereafter. We shall go to the electorate with a safe conscience and with achievements greater than those of the Ministerial party. I can give many instances. The actual parts played by the cowardly Justice party in this very sitting will be noted by the electorates. Day before yesterday when a motion regarding the forest demand was being put to vote, Sir Patro and his Deputy Leader bolted away from here . . ."

The hon the President :—"I do not think the hon. Member is in order to take this opportunity to comment on the votes hon. Members have cast on the forest demand."

Mr. J. A. Saldanha :—"They have thrown dirt on us; we want to throw dirt on them. (Loud laughter.) A campaign is carried on against me in my electorate."

The hon. the President :—"The hon. Member is persisting. I will not be justified in giving an opportunity to the hon. Member to have his election rehearsal in this Council." (Laughter.)

* Mr. J. A. Saldanha :—"I have said enough, Sir. (Loud laughter.) I and my colleagues on this side can go safely to the country with much to our credit and better record than the Ministerialists. We can tell our electorates what the Ministerialists and the cowardly Justicites had done. . . ."

* Rao Bahadur B. Muniswami Nayudu :—"May I know, Sir, if the hon. Member is parliamentary in using the word 'cowardly'?"

* The hon. the President :—"I wish to know what the exact word is which the hon. Member used. I did not hear him well."

Diwan Bahadur P. Kesava Pillai :—"He said 'cowardly' Justicites. He is sleeping always."

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* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" I do not think the hon. Member will try to justify his remarks. I think he will have no objection to withdraw the word."

* Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" So much provocation was caused and I used the word unconsciously. (Laughter.). I can at least say ' Impotent Ministerialists."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The question is ' to reduce the allotment of Rs. 3,98,800 for Legislative Bodies by Rs. 100 '."

The motion was put to the House and carried.

* Mr. K. R. KARANT :—" Mr. President, Sir, I beg to move that the allotment of Rs. 3,98,800 for Legislative Bodies be reduced by Rs. 100. My object is to urge the need for more non-official days for the Council sittings during the rest of the life-time of this Council, whatever it may be. I should like to invite the attention of the House to the fact that there are many Bills which have already been introduced and which are pending consideration of this House. There are three Bills which have passed the Select Committee stage. There is the Bill further to amend the Madras Abkari Act of my hon. Friend from Kanara, Mr. Saldanha, to mention only one of the various achievements of this party. Bill No. 2 is the Bill to amend the Madras General Clauses Act by Mr. Saldanha. The third Bill is the Bill which has passed the Select Committee stage—the Bill to amend the District Municipalities Act by Mr. Kaleswara Rao. I may mention, Sir, that this last Bill is very important and it was passed by the Select Committee as early as January last. Then there are eight Bills, the Impartible Estates Bills, the Bill to amend the Madras Local Boards Act by my hon. Friend, Mr. Basheer Ahmad Sayeed, another Bill to amend the Madras Local Boards Act by Mr. Harisarvottama Rao, the Bill to amend the Madras District Municipalities Act by Mr. Tulasiram, a Bill to amend the Madras City Municipal Act by Mr. Basheer Ahmad Sayeed, another Bill for the suppression of Brothels and lastly the Madras Village Services Bill of the hon. Mr. Muthiah Mudaliyar who may come out of the Ministerial party before the Council's life is over. That Bill has also been referred to the Select Committee. I wish to impress upon the Leader of the House who has made this demand, that he should urge His Excellency to grant us more days so that we may sit and consider all these Bills and show to the electorate our work in regard to the various points and issues raised in these Bills."

Mr. K. MADHAVAN NAYAR :—" Sir, looking into the administration report of last year, we see that there were altogether 35 days on which the Legislative Council sat, and out of these 35 days, only 9 days were devoted for the transaction of non-official business. By the expenditure of so much money on the Legislative Council an impression is created in the public mind that the Legislative Council represents the people of this Presidency and that the wishes of people's representatives in the Legislative Council are given effect to by the Government. This is a false impression; in order to keep up that impression at least, the Government should allot more days for the transaction of non-official business than they do now. As my hon. Friend pointed out, so many pieces of legislation are hanging fire; so many Bills have to be introduced; I know as a matter of fact and I am sure that hon. Members of the Executive Council also are very earnest with regard to a very important piece of legislation which has to be introduced

in the Council before the close of this session. I mean the Malabar Tenancy Bill. For all these things more days have to be allotted and it is to impress upon the Government the necessity for devoting more days for non-official business that this token motion has been moved by my hon. Friend. I therefore support the motion strongly and appeal to the House to pass the motion."

* The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" Mr. President, this is again another matter that is in the power of His Excellency the Governor. All I can say is any discussion that will take place here will be placed before His Excellency. It is not open to me to make any recommendation unless I am asked one. (A voice : 'If you are asked ?') If I am asked, it will not be open to me to inform the House as to my reply."

* Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR :—" Sir, the last sentence of the hon. Leader of the House is highly disappointing. He declined to take us into his confidence. He told us in so many terms that he was not prepared to inform us what opinion he would give to His Excellency if he was asked to give his opinion. That is not the kind of attitude which is expected from a responsible Leader of the House who is the first Member of the Cabinet. He bluntly stated that he would forward this debate to His Excellency the Governor for consideration. We are not satisfied with that answer. We expect him to take stock of the situation, to feel the pulse of the House, to represent our feelings, as the spokesman of this House, to His Excellency and to try to pursuade His Excellency to yield and to respect the feeling, sentiment and the wishes of this House. It is a matter of common knowledge that the number of days allotted for the transaction of non-official business is very very inadequate, compared with the number of days which official business naturally takes up. We want more days. The number of non-official days being few and limited, a lot of non-official business is being held up and very very important Bills are being held up with the result that the output of legislation from the non-official point of view has become miserably poor and it is up to the Government not only to mind their own business but also help the people and help the representatives of the people to introduce in this House measures of far-reaching importance and utility to the public. I fervently hope that the hon. Leader of the House will bear this consideration in mind and with broad sympathy that is so characteristic of him and imagination will espouse this cause and put up a strenuous fight before His Excellency for giving us more time."

* Mr. F. E. JAMES :—" Mr. President, Sir, I am asked by the other European Members of this House to support this motion on the general principle that the non-official Members of this House ought to secure as much of the time at the disposal of the House as possible. Having said that, I would like to make one or two observations. In the first place, I would like to remind the hon. Members that, in regard to the actual time at the disposal of the House for non-official business, it is actually considerable compared with the time that non-official or private Members in the House of Commons have. I think you will find that if and when provincial autonomy comes to this province, the non-official Members will have a very hard task indeed to obtain time. As a matter of actual procedure Government will naturally require more time to transact all its business in the House. In the second place, I would like to observe that far more time could be available even now both for official and non-official business if the parties in the various blocks of the 4 p.m.

[Mr. F. E. James] [16th March 1929

House exercise more discipline over their Members in regard to the length of individual speeches and also in the participation of the respective parties in the debates. It is a factor which is not only common in this House but also to Houses in other parts of the country that owing to lack of discipline with regard to party matters, within the limited time for discussion, several Members belonging to one party rise up one after another to make speeches along exactly the same lines. This is a thing which I deprecate. Though I am a very young Member of this House, I have had experience for some time in other parts of the country, and I would venture to submit that Members should tighten the discipline in this matter. Although we do not have very much time for non-official business, we could get far more time if we made shorter speeches, gave careful consideration to the points which have to be dealt with and made a careful selection of the Members of our parties who have to take part in the debate. Thus we should have far more time for the disposal of non-official business than we have at the present time."

The motion was then put to the House and declared lost.

A poll was demanded and the House divided thus:—

Ayes.

1. Diwan Bahadur P. Kesava Pillai.
2. Mr. C. E. Wood.
3. ,, F. E. James.
4. ,, R. J. C. Robertson.
5. ,, V. Ramjee Rao.
6. ,, P. C. Venkatapati Raju.
7. ,, R. Srinivasa Ayyangar.
8. ,, Sami Venkatachalam Chetti.
9. ,, S. Satyamurti.
10. ,, C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar.
11. ,, J. A. Saldanha.
12. ,, G. Harisarvottama Rao.
13. ,, Basheer Ahmed Sayeed Sahib.
14. ,, C. S. Govindaraja Mudaliyar.
15. ,, Abdul Hameed Khan.
16. ,, L. K. Tulasiram.
17. ,, K. V. R. Swami.
18. ,, D. Narayana Raju.
19. Dr. B. S. Mallayya.
20. Mr. K. R. Karant.
21. ,, K. Madhavan Nayar.
22. ,, C. Obi Reddi.
23. ,, A. Parasurama Rao.
24. ,, C. Ramasomayajulu.
25. Sriman Biswanath Das Mahasayo.
26. Mr. A. Kaleswara Rao.
27. ,, Mothay Narayana Rao.
28. ,, C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliyar.
29. ,, K. P. V. S. Muhammad Meera Ravuttar.
30. ,, C. Venkatarangam Nayudu.
31. ,, K. S. Sivasubrahmanya Ayyar.
32. ,, A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar.
33. Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar.
34. Mr. Ramanath Goenka.
35. ,, K. P. Raman Menon.
36. ,, R. Nagan Gowda.
37. ,, C. Gopala Menon.
38. ,, B. Ramachandra Reddi.
39. Diwan Bahadur P. C. Ethirajulu Nayudu.
40. Mr. P. T. Rajan.
41. Khan Bahadur S. K. Abdul Razack Sahib Bahadur.
42. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar.
43. Khan Sahib T. M. Moidoo Sahib Bahadur.
44. Rao Bahadur B. Muniswami Nayudu.
45. Mr. K. Sarabha Reddi.
46. ,, A. V. Bhanoji Rao.

Noes.

1. The hon. Sir Norman Marjoribanks.
2. ,, Khan Bahadur Sir Muhammad Usman Sahib Bahadur.
3. ,, Mr. T. E. Moir.
4. ,, Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar.
5. ,, Mr. M. R. Seturatnam Ayyar.
6. ,, Mr. S. Muthiah Mudaliyar.
7. ,, Dr. P. Subbarayan.
8. Mr. Hilton Brown.
9. ,, H. A. Watson.
10. ,, C. A. Souter.
11. ,, S. H. Slater.
12. ,, A. McG. C. Tampoe.
13. ,, C. W. E. Cotton.
14. Mr. V. Ch. John.
15. ,, M. A. Manikkavelu Nayakar.
16. ,, Syed Tajudin Sahib.
17. ,, H. B. Ari Gowder.
18. ,, J. Bheemayya.
19. ,, J. A. Davis.
20. ,, R. Foulkes.
21. ,, Muhammad Schamnad Sahib.
22. Muppil Nayar of Kavalappara.
23. The Zamindar of Singampatti.
24. Mr. J. Kuppuswami.
25. Subadar-Major S. A. Nanjappah Bahadur
26. Rao Bahadur O. M. Narayanan Nambudripad.

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Noes—cont.

27. Mr. K. Krishnan.
28. ,, N. Siva Raj.
29. Rao Sahib L. C. Guruswami.
30. Mr. V. I. Muniswami Pillai.
31. ,, W. P. A. Soundarapandia Nadar.
32. ,, S. Subrahmanya Moopanar.
33. Mr. S. Venkiah.
34. Rao Sahib R. Srinivasan.
35. Mr. S. N. Dorai Raja.
36. The Zamindar of Kallikota.
37. Khan Bahadur P. Khalifullah Sahib Bahadur.

Ayes 46. Noes 37.

The motion was carried.

Mr. A. PARASURAMA RAO :—" Mr. President, Sir, I propose to move the cut motion standing in my name, namely,

'*to reduce the allotment of Rs.* 2,33,000 *for Provincial Legislative Council by Rs.* 100 '

for the purpose of urging on the Government the need for providing lodgings for the Members of this Council. Mr. President, it is not necessary for me to support this motion by a long speech. Every one in this Council would be aware of the difficulties that the mufassal Members are put to for their lodgings in a city like this where convenient accommodation is not available. Hon. Members also know that in many other provinces there has been provision made by constructing suitable buildings for the lodgings of hon. Members of the Councils in those provinces. Under these circumstances, I would urge upon the consideration of the Members of this Council that similar provision ought to be made with regard to this Council also. It is only in the interests of more convenience and facility which the hon. Members will have, that I make this motion."

Mr. K. V. R. SWAMI :—" Mr. President, no speech is required from me, as all the mufassalites realize that it is a necessity to have lodgings for them. It may be said against it that this matter was once brought before this Council and that when some councillors were asked whether they wanted lodgings they said that they did not require. It may be that certain Members did not really require lodgings, but several other Members may like to have quarters. There must be an opportunity for the mufassal Members to meet. There must also be social amenities, as well as libraries. Sometimes, it is not possible for Members of the same party to meet at one place and to deal with the various points before coming to the Council. Under those circumstances, I support the motion."

* The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" Mr. President, Sir, it is not a matter that has been under the consideration of Government recently and the only thing that I can say about it is that it seems to be eminently a matter for the House Committee to consider and if any proposals are put forward by that committee they will receive sympathetic consideration at the hands of Government."

The motion was put to the House and lost.

Mr. L. K. TULASIRAM :—" Mr. President, Sir, I move the motion standing against my name, namely,

'*to reduce the allotment of Rs.* 1,65,800 *for Elections for Indian and Provincial Legislatures by Rs.* 100. '

Sir, in moving this cut motion I wish to draw the attention of the Government to the non-representation of the labouring classes in the Legislative Council by election. . ."

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* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" Order, order. If the hon. Member really intends non-representation by election, the motion is not in order, because it is not within the power of this Council or of the Government to alter the rules on franchise. I request the hon. Member to confine his remarks to nomination."

4-15 p.m. Mr. L. K. TULASIRAM :—" I only want to draw the attention of Government to the non-representation of the labouring classes in this Council. That is how I have worded this resolution. At least some sort of arrangement should be made to bring the representatives of the labouring classes. At present they have no representation and I claim to represent them in this House. Time after time there is a commotion going on in the country and Government think it is due to the communistic activities. I say these railway strikes and others have very little to do with communism. They are due to their innumerable grievances, and there is no one to bring them to the notice of Government. Hence I say representation should be given to the labouring classes. Representation by communities would be something; but at the same time it has been the bane of communal tensions. Hence I move this cut motion with the hope that Government will give their attention to this question and see that representation is given to the labouring classes at least in the next Council."

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN :—" I second it."

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" Sir, though I listened to the speech of the hon. the Mover of the motion, I could not follow him. In one breath he said he represents the labouring classes; and in the next breath he said they have no representation. (Laughter.) He said the labouring classes should be given representation in the next reformed Council; but that is a matter upon which this Government cannot make any pronouncement, as they have no power. Further I could not think that in a Legislative Council in which there are so many seats reserved for the depressed classes, labour could be said to be unrepresented."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The question is to reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,65,800 for Elections for Indian and Provincial Legislatures by Rs. 100."

The motion was put to vote and lost. A poll was demanded and the House divided thus :—

Ayes.

1. Mr. P. C. Venkatapati Raju.
2. ,, R. Srinivasa Ayyangar.
3. ,, S. Satyamurti.
4. ,, J. A. Saldanha.
5. ,, G. Harisarvottama Rao.
6. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed Sahib Bahadur.
7. Mr. C. S Govindaraja Mudaliyar.
8. Abdul Hameed Khan Sahib Bahadur.
9. Mr. L. K. Tulasiram.
10. ,, K. V. R. Swami.
11. ,, D. Narayana Raju.
12. Dr. B. S. Mallayya.
13. Mr. K. R. Karant.
14. ,, K. Madhavan Nayar.
15. Rao Bahadur B. Muniswami Nayudu.
16. Mr. C. Obi Reddi.
17. Mr. A. Parasurama Rao.
18. ,, C. Ramasomayajulu.
19. ,, P. Bhaktavatsulu Nayudu.
20. Sriman Biswanath Das Mahasayo.
21. Mr. A. Kaleswara Rao.
22. ,, M. Narayana Rao.
23. ,, C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliyar.
24. ,, K. P. V. S. Muhammad Meera Ravuttar.
25. ,, C. Venkatarangam Nayudu.
26. ,, K. S. Sivasubrahmanya Ayyar.
27. ,, A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar.
28. Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar.
29. Mr. K. P. Raman Menon.
30. ,, R. Nagan Gowda.

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Noes.

1. The hon. Sir Norman Marjoribanks.
2. ,, Khan Bahadur Sir Muhammad Usman Sahib Bahadur.
3. ,, Mr. T. E. Moir.
4. ,, Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar.
5. ,, Mr. M. R. Seturatnam Ayyar.
6. ,, Mr. S. Muthiah Mudaliyar.
7. ,, Dr P. Subbarayan.
8. Mr Hilton Brown.
9. ,, H. A. Watson.
10. ,, C. A. Souter.
11. ,, S. H. Slater.
12. ,, A. McG. C. Tampoe.
13. ,, C. W. E. Cotton.
14. ,, V. Ch. John.
15. ,, M. A. Manikkavelu Nayakar.
16. Syed Tajudin Sahib Bahadur.
17. Mr. J. A. Davis.
18. ,, R. Foulkes.
19. Muppil Nayar of Kavalappara.
20. The Zamindar of Singampatti
21. Subadar-Major S. A. Nanjappa Bahadur.
22. Mr. K. Krishnan.
23. ,, N. Siva Raj.
24. Rao Sahib L. C. Guruswami.
25. Mr V. I. Muniswami Pillai.
26. ,, W. P. A. Soundara Pandia Nadar.
27. ,, S. Subrahmanya Moopanar.
28. ,, R. Srinivasan.
29. ,, C. E. Wood.
30. ,, F. E. James.
31. ,, S. N. Dorai Raja.
32. ,, S. Arpudaswami Udayar.
33. Khan Bahadur P. Khalif-ul-lah Sahib Bahadur.
34. Swami A. S. Sahajanandam.
35. Mr P. T. Rajan.
36. Khan Bahadur S. K. Abdul Razack Sahib Bahadur.
37. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar
38. Khan Sahib T. M. Moidoo Sahib Bahadur.
39. Mr. K. Sarabha Reddi.
40. ,, W. O. Wright

Neutral.

1. Mr. S. Venkiah.
2. ,, V. Ramjee Rao.
3. ,, U. Ramaswami Ayyar.
4. Rao Bahadur C. S. Ratnasabhapati Mudaliyar.
5. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. Patro.

Ayes 30. Noes 40. Neutral 5.

The motion was lost.

* Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" Sir, I move—

'*to reduce the allotment of Rs.* 1,65,800 *for Elections for Indian and Provincial Legislatures by Rs.* 100.'

" Sir, I move this motion for three purposes ; first, as I said just now, to suggest the better and more careful preparation of voters' lists ; secondly, for increasing the number of polling stations ; and thirdly, for introducing the system of colour or symbol distinctions. In moving this motion, I will draw the attention of the House to the defects in the present system, which were brought to the notice of Government in the budget discussion of 1926, just before the last elections. In that debate several Members took part, including the hon. Dr. Subbarayan and Mr. Ranganatha Mudaliyar. The present Law Member also made a very vigorous speech pointing out the defects. But all that was of no use ; for very little attempt was made to cure the defects, at least in my district. For instance, there are in Malabar a large number of kanamdars paying a revenue of more than ten rupees ; and yet they are not entitled to vote as their names were not included in the voters' list. In South Kanara there are the mulgeni and chalgini tenants holding lands paying more than ten rupees as revenue and yet in the last election when myself and another went about canvassing votes we found that a great many of our friends who were entitled to vote were not included in the voters' list. I hope the Collector and other officers concerned will look to this. Then, Sir, in preparing the voters' lists it will be better if the additions and corrections are separately shown so that one can readily find out what names have been added and omitted, and that the mistakes, if any, can readily be rectified. To this end, I want the lists should be published as early as possible and put up in all public places.

[Mr. J. A. Saldanha] [16th March 1929

"Then, Sir, there is the location of polling stations at very distant places from one another. Though this point was emphasised by almost every speaker just before the last elections, I do not think there was any addition to the number of polling stations in my district. Nor am I aware of any addition in the other districts. Perhaps Government may say that they cannot get sufficient number of men to act as polling officers. That cannot be exactly true.

"Then, Sir, with regard to the adoption of symbol or colour distinctions I think there is unnecessary opposition from Government. If the system has worked well in Bombay, I do not see any reason for its non-adoption in this Presidency. Sir, for these reasons I move this motion."

* Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—"Sir, the token cut motion No. 585 standing in my name has been passed over somehow or other. (After a pause.) I will speak on this motion, later on, if you will allow me."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"Yes."

* Mr. C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR :—"Mr. President, Sir, I have great pleasure in seconding this motion. And in so doing I will call the attention of the Leader of the House to the very unsatisfactory way in which these electoral rolls are being prepared.

4-30 p.m. "Ordinarily these electoral rolls used to be prepared even in the month of February or March. Even in those days these lists are very promiscuously prepared. The newly prepared lists contain the names of dead persons and persons whose names ought to be in the lists are omitted. The lists which are prepared and which find their way into the office are being tampered with even at the printing offices or at the taluk offices, by what means I am not prepared to say. The names that are entered in the rough lists are being removed after they have been sent to the office. This year by some reason or other I understand that no information or intimation has been sent to the several districts to prepare the lists. No attempt has hitherto been made for the preparation of the lists. I do not know with what haste and what inaccuracy this year's lists are going to be prepared. No doubt on another motion the hon. the Leader of the House had pointed out that he had no information from His Excellency the Governor whether he would dissolve the Council or continue it. If the Council is to be dissolved, ordinarily instructions ought to have been issued by this time to prepare the lists, but no such intimation seems to have been given to the Revenue Department for the preparation of the lists. Again in the matter of the conducting of elections, the secrecy of the ballot is not properly kept. No doubt the illiterate voters have to say it, and the polling officer as well as the agents of the candidates are generally in the know of it. But more than that I have seen in elections that the agents of candidates go along with the voters as far as the polling box and compel the electors to give out the names of their nominees even though the former happen to be literate men. Such vagaries ought to be put down and ballot secrecy ought to be thoroughly maintained. Some means must be devised even to adopt methods such as those adopted in Bombay and other places to keep the ballot secrecy. Polling stations ought to be so arranged as to make it easy for the voters to reach the places. I have very great pleasure in seconding the motion."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—"I will not take more than a few minutes, Sir."

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* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The motion is to be put at 4-40 p.m."

* Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" Very well, Sir. The first thing I want to mention is that these voters' lists which were prepared for the first Council are more or less repeated for the next Council with a few or even no alterations whatever. Therefore I suggest that the number of voters may have some relation to the actual number of pattadars who are to be found in the village. For that, I would suggest that when these voters' lists are prepared a note may be added to show the number of pattadars in the village paying Rs. 10 according to the village register, and the number of such people as found in the voters' lists.

" The second point I would urge is this, that in fixing the polling stations they must not cause inconvenience to a larger number of people than they can avoid. For instance if there is a village consisting of 400 voters, they must not be dragged all the way to a distant place which has only 40 to 50 voters. So in that way a greater amount of discrimination can be exercised in the selection of polling stations. Also the number of voters should be limited for each polling station. It often happens that, in the case of the voters who appear in a certain polling station, the polling officer finds it impossible to record all the votes that may be presented before him. And no voter should as a rule be asked to travel more than five or six miles to record his vote.

" My friends have referred to the secrecy that is necessary in regard to the ballot. Personally I find the use of the symbols to be the best. When I went to Bombay and made enquiries regarding this matter, I was assured by the people there that that system was working very satisfactorily.

" Another thing is that the buses which ply and ought to ply—licence having been issued for them—should continue to so ply even on the date of voting. I know that sometimes people, who have some control over these bus owners, impress all the available buses for their purposes. I think this is very unfair to the travelling public or even to the voters who, otherwise, might use them. I know of a superintendent of police who exercised more vigilance in regard to that matter and saw that all buses were run for the public as usual on the day of voting also. I wish that circulars be issued to the superintendents of police to see that the travelling public are not inconvenienced by the diversion of buses for the benefit of one candidate or other. In appointing polling officers care should be exercised to see that no man working in one capacity or another under any candidate is appointed as polling officer. These are the suggestions which I want to make, Sir."

* The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" Mr. President, Sir, first as regards the preparation of electoral rolls, I do not know where my hon. Friend who spoke on the opposite side has been making his enquiries, but instructions for the preparation of revised rolls were issued a week ago or so, on the 4th March I think. With regard to the suggestion for the revision of the rolls, of course, the only bases that the Collectors have for preparing revised rolls are the village accounts. And these of course are not often up-to-date because, there not being a record of rights, the people are not sufficiently interested to see that changes are entered up-to-date and transfers owing to death and other causes are registered in the accounts. So, if the rules provide that these entries in the registers can be challenged and corrected on the application of those interested, it is the duty of any voter to see that he

[Sir Norman Marjoribanks] [16th March 1929

is registered if he wishes to exercise his vote. In other countries where the system of representative government prevails, it is one of the chief functions of the different political parties to bring the necessary additions or changes to the notice of the revising authority. If there was such an organization here, I am sure that the rolls would be much more complete and accurate than they can be under the present conditions.

"As regards the fixing of the polling stations, the instructions issued were to this effect:

'Due regard must be paid to the convenience of electors, the distance they have to travel and the facilities of communication in selecting polling stations. Preference should be given to centres which are easy of access to the surrounding villages, and where there are hotels or rest-houses to the convenience of electors. And the polling officer will be permitted to call for lists of villages or population centres situated at a distance of more than five miles to the nearest route to the polling station and he should consider whether having regard to the number of such villages and the means of communication, additional polling stations should not be established in the same polling areas.'

"If this instruction was not given effect to completely or if the authorities failed to work it in certain instances, the most useful thing would be for members who felt the inconvenience to write now and say that in such and such an area the polling stations were too few, and one polling station in this locality and another in another locality should be opened. They may make their suggestions now and they will be in time for the consideration of local authorities who have already been told to act accordingly.

"Then the last matter is that of symbols for illiterate voters. That is, of course, a difficult problem. The matter had been mooted before and we got reports from the various officers who conducted the last elections. And the opinion of a majority of them appears to be that it would be difficult to work it, as a different degree of popularity attached to each symbol. The man who captures a popular symbol will have a great advantage over others. (A voice :—' What about colours'?). Colours are impossible because a large number of people are colour-blind. They cannot distinguish one colour from another. (Interruption.) Perhaps the hon. Member himself is colour-blind."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"I now put the amendment to the vote of the House."

The reduction motion was put to the House and declared lost. Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao demanded a poll, and the House divided thus:

Ayes.

1. Mr. P. C. Venkatapati Raju.
2. „ R. Srinivasa Ayyangar.
3. „ J. A. Saldanha.
4. „ G. Harisarvottama Rao.
5. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed Sahib Bahadur.
6. Mr. C. S. Govindaraja Mudaliyar.
7. „ Abdul Hameed Khan.
8. „ L. K. Tulasiram.
9. „ K. V. R. Swami.
10. „ D. Narayana Raju.
11. „ K. R. Karant.
12. „ K. Madhavan Nayar.
13. „ C. Obi Reddi.
14. Mr. A. Parasurama Rao.
15. „ C. Ramasomayajulu.
16. „ P. Bhaktavatsulu Nayudu.
17. Sriman Biswanath Das Mahasayo.
18. Mr. A. Kaleswara Rao.
19. „ Mothay Narayana Rao.
20. „ C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliyar.
21. „ K. S. Sivasubrahmanya Ayyar.
22. „ A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar.
23. Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar.
24. Mr. K. P. Raman Menon.
25. „ R. Nagan Gowda.

Noes.

1. The hon. Sir Norman Marjoribanks.
2. ,, Khan Bahadur Sir Muhammad Usman Sahib Bahadur.
3. ,, Mr. T. E. Moir.
4. ,, Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar.
5. ,, Mr. M. R. Seturatnam Ayyar.
6. ,, ,, S. Muthiah Mudaliyar.
7. ,, Dr. P. Subbarayan.
8. Mr. Hilton Brown.
9. ,, H. A. Watson.
10. ,, C. A. Souter.
11. ,, S. H. Slater.
12. ,, A. McG. C. Tampoe.
13. ,, C. W. E. Cotton.
14. ,, V. Ch. John.
15. The Zamindar of Singampatti.
16. Syed Tajudin Sahib Bahadur.
17. Mr. J. A. Davis.
18. ,, R. Foulkes.
19. ,, Muppil Nayar of Kavalapara.
20. Subadar-Major S. A. Nanjappah Bahadur.
21. Rao Bahadur O. M. Narayanan Nambudiripad.
22. Mr. K. Krishnan.
23. Rao Sahib L. C. Guruswami.
24. Mr. V. I. Muniswami Pillai.
25. ,, W. P. A. Soundarapandia Nadar.
26. ,, S. Subrahmanya Moopanar.
27. ,, S. V. Vanavudaya Gounder.
28. Rao Sahib R. Srinivasan.
29. Mr. S. Venkiah.
30. ,, C. E. Wood.
31. ,, W. O. Wright.
32. ,, F. E. James.
33. ,, S. N. Dorai Raja.
34. ,, U. Ramaswami Ayyar.
35. ,, G. R. Premayya.
36. ,, V. Ramjee Rao.
37. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. Patro.
38. Mr. P. T. Rajan.
39. Khan Sahib T. M. Moidu Sahib Bahadur.
40. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar.
41. Mr. K. Saraba Reddi.
42. Diwan Bahadur P. C. Ethirajulu Nayudu.

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" I may mention to the hon. Members that they should not change their places till the result of the poll is announced. 4-45 p.m.

" Ayes 25. Noes 42.

" The motion is lost.

" I now put the Demand to the vote of the House. The question is ' that Government be granted a sum of Rs. 4·63 lakhs minus Rs. 200 under X. General Administration—Legislative Bodies '."

The motion was put and carried and the grant made.

DEMAND NO. XI.—GENERAL ADMINISTRATION—SECRETARIATS.

* The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—"Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I move—

' *that Government be granted a sum not exceeding* 6·95 *lakhs under Demand XI—General Administration—Secretariats* '."

* Mr. A. KALESWARA RAO :—" Mr. President, Sir, I move—

' *To reduce the allotment of Rs.* 42,100 *for Executive Council by Rs.* 100 (*to criticize the policy of repression adopted by the Government*).'

" Sir, the Government has been going on of late with a repressive policy which is increasing day by day. Practically, we have got a police regime begun and going on in a right royal fashion. There was some time ago an agitation to remove the Neill Statue to some private place secured from the view of the public. There were meetings held in some parts of the town and many people were sent to the jails where they were treated very badly both as under-trial prisoners and as prisoners later on. A discussion took place in this House, and we members of the Swarajist party expressed our view very strongly, but the Government with its nominated strength voted against us, and suppressed the agitation. Then the Simon Commission came to the Presidency and Government wanted to discourage the boycott agitation and

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do as much harm as possible to the boycotters. There was unnecessary shooting against harmless mobs and Malabar Special Police and other police from various parts of the province were brought and taken in motor buses to terrify the people. The police encouraged badmashes to beat the Congressmen who were attending public meetings. They stood near the Iron Bridge and encouraged badmashes to beat peaceful people who had gone to attend a peaceful demonstration. And though we moved a resolution here to censure the conduct of the police, the Government with its strength of 40 votes and with the assistance of the party which is in league with it have outvoted that resolution. Afterwards things have not improved. In North Arcot district, regular repression has begun. Congress workers were molested by the police, police surveillance has been carried on very vigorously; several Congress workers were arrested and sent to prison under some section or other. Of course, we know their ways. It is only that the police have to put up a case before the magistrate and the magistrate is sure to convict the man. Never in any political case has the magistrate decided against the Government. Of course, so long as the executive and judicial functions are together, we cannot expect any other result. Now what did the Government do in the South Indian Railway strike? It helped the Railway company, it interfered on behalf of the Railway company in the name of peace and order. It spent one lakh of rupees in importing additional police and stationing it at various places and suppressed the strike very ruthlessly. Instead of being the mediator, instead of treating the labourers in a human fashion, instead of redressing their grievances, it suppressed the strike in a ruthless way, and prosecutions of the leaders of the strike are going on in three places. It is all in the Government's hands whether to prosecute or to withdraw prosecution or prosecute only under certain sections. What happened since? Of course, we moved a motion of adjournment with regard to the repression that was going on in North Arcot district. Of course, there were rumours then that the Simon Commission would visit that district. Whatever it may be, the fact is there, that the Congress workers have been molested and arrested and section 144, Criminal Procedure Code, has also been abused. In Vellore, when the other party was allowed scot free to abuse the Congress workers and when the latter wanted to speak in reply, section 144 was applied to them. When we brought the matter to the notice of the Government, the Government did not care to take any steps. Of late, a new section has been unearthed, section 151, from some unknown quarter of the Criminal Procedure Code by which the police could arrest anybody without a warrant, any respectable man going in the street, and keep him in jail for some hours and then release him at their will and pleasure. That is the section, Sir, which is now having free play in the Presidency. We have leaders like Mr. Konda Venkatappayya and our respected friend Mr. Swami arrested. We have the case of Mr. Sambamurti, a respected leader of the Andhradesa, an ex-vakil and a member of the All-India Congress Working Committee, a man who has devoted his whole life to the service of his motherland—that gentleman was arrested without any warrant at the station at Bezwada at 4 a.m. when he was going to Cocanada with his wife. The police did not know why they were arresting him; the Deputy Superintendent of Police who sent the Police Inspector with some constables to arrest Mr Sambamurti did not know why Mr. Sambamurti was required. Mr Sambamurti was taken to the Deputy Superintendent of Police; he took instructions from the District Magistrate, and the District Magistrate did not know what to do with him,

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After sometime the District Magistrate seemed to have received instructions from somewhere and issued that preliminary order which is necessary before a man is prosecuted under section 108, to show cause why he should not be asked to furnish security. He was then taken to Masulipatam and kept in jail. Then a farce of a trial was gone through, and he was asked to furnish security under section 108 by the District Magistrate of Kistna, though no speeches were delivered by Mr. Sambamurti in the Kistna district. There is another case. We find at the time of the Simon Commission that one Mr. Somayajulu when he was trying to go to Madras to attend the Simon boycott was suddenly arrested by the police under section 151, Criminal Procedure Code, and kept in the lock-up for a few days and asked to get out again. Sir, we hear of the case of the arrest of Mr. Manoranjan Guptha, a member of the All-India Congress Committee and ex-detenu under the Bengal regulation. He was arrested under section 151 at Bezwada. He seems to have come there on some insurance business, to organize some agencies for insurance business. I do not know whether this Government or the Bengal Government sent instructions to arrest him. The police arrested him at 1 a.m. It is curious to note that these people are being arrested at 4 a.m. and 1 a.m. and so on. I do not know why the police should be afraid of arresting these people in day light. Then we have a case reported of Mr. R. N. Sarma. His fault was that he hoisted a black flag in his own compound. The police sent word to him 'Don't hoist the flag'. I do not know how any Government can prevent a man from hoisting a flag in his own compound. Simply because the Simon Commission was going in the train and his house is near the railway line, they thought that the Simon Commission would be annoyed. The Simon Commission have seen several thousand black flags already. They are not new to this. I know of an instance where the Simon Commission were presented with black flags, that was near the anicut at Bezwada. But they took it in a sporting manner. But our police department seems to be very nervous about the safety of the Simon Commission, more than Sir John Simon himself. The Police Inspector came to Mr. Sarma's house and removed that flag, arrested and took him to the Police station and got some explanation from him, and sent him away. In this way, the police regime is going on.

"I also beg to submit to this House that the C.I.D. people are going on shadowing political workers. They have been shadowing some of the hon. Members of this House also (A voice: Including the Home Member), a fact which has been brought to the notice of the Member in charge. Also students of the Law College are being shadowed. I do not know what the value of the education is that is given to the students there. They will have while studying in the Law College the hon. the Law Member and the Chief Minister watching over them, and it is on the report of the C.I.D. that one student Gopalakrishna has been rusticated from the Law College. He is an emotional man, that is what the Principal of the Law College observed (laughter)—therefore he should not be a student of the Law College. It seems the Principal was asked to rusticate this student."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"The hon. Member will continue his list on Monday. (Laughter.) The Council will now adjourn and re-assemble on Monday at 11 o'clock."

R. V. KRISHNA AYYAR,
Secretary to the Legislative Council.